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HEBON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians and Israelis in civilian dress threw stones at each other in downtown Hebron on Monday, a day after Israel agreed to pull most of its troops out of this troubled town by spring.

William part of the firm? No way, says the family

Radical group warns Croatia

CAIRO (AP) — A radical group has warned that it will take revenge if a militant leader who disappeared in Zagreb is extradited to Egypt, an Arab newspaper reported Monday. The threat came in a statement in which the Vanguard of Conquest charged that the Egyptian government has made a formal request to Croatia for the extradition of the militant, Talaat Fouad Qasem, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper said. Mr. Qasem has acted as a spokesman for another outlawed group, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which has been blamed for much of the violence in a three-year campaign by Muslim militants to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. He disappeared earlier this month on a trip to Croatia. The Croatian government says he was thrown out of the country on Sept. 18 for violating residence laws, but his family says he has not turned up anywhere since. Egyptian security officials have declined to comment on the case. Al Hayat quoted the Vanguard as threatening that "any government which handed over or will hand over any of the Islamic groups to the Egyptian government will be a target for severe revenge."



AMMAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1995, JUMADA UL A 2, 1416

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King: Jordan-Israel peace treaty first step for harmony in Holy Land

Realisation of Palestinian rights a vital component of peace; Real purpose of peace promotion of security and prosperity for people; Jordan cannot be indifferent to Iraqi suffering; MENA summit offers a great opportunity to construct a new region

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Monday the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was the first step towards harmony in the Holy Land, but the final goal of peace and stability in the Middle East could be achieved only with the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Addressing the parliamentary assembly of the Council

of Europe in Strasbourg, the King also said the real purpose of peace was to promote the security and prosperity of people rather than simply the elimination of hostilities between two sides.

"Without security there can be no assured prosperity; and without prosperity there can be no assured security," said the King.

The Monarch, who was to leave for Washington to attend a signing ceremony at

the White House on Thursday of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on expanding self-rule to the West Bank, said the dispute over Jerusalem could be resolved by making it the capital of the state of Israel as well as Palestine.

The King said Jordan was committed to the path of democracy it has chosen for itself and would continue to work towards making itself a model of social, political and economic stability and

set a positive example in the region.

Reaffirming that he had no ambitions in Iraq, the King said he could not, however, remain impassive to

the suffering of the Iraqi people, who, he said, "have been imprisoned for years" by the international sanctions imposed against their country following its invasion of Kuwait.

He called for a concerted Arab and international effort to "bring an end to all the causes of the Iraqi suffering and denial, both internally and externally."

The King described next month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman as an "opportunity...to the governments and institutions of Europe to take part

in the construction of a new Europe" and expressed hope that Europe would take advantage of the economic possibilities in Jordan as well as in the region.

The King said Jordan had made peace with Israel with the clear intention of maintaining a warm relationship with the Jewish state in all that it entails and described the Oct. 26 peace treaty as "the first step towards the restoration of harmony in the Holy Land, which God

ordained but which man disrupted."

"The benefits to both parties are equally beneficial; Jordan, which had been virtually landlocked, now, once again, has access to the Mediterranean; Israel now can also look beyond the previous confines to live in a region of peace," said the King.

However, Jordan has not overlooked or side-stepped

(Continued on page 7)



Israel, Jordan fight oil slick

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli anti-pollution experts are helping clean up a spill of about 100 tonnes of oil in the Red Sea port of Aqaba, environment ministry officials said Monday. Jordan asked for assistance after the accident which risks damaging coral reefs in the Gulf shared by the two neighbours. Workers laboured all night to try to contain the slick in port area.

Jordanians in Kuwait to visit relatives in jail

KUWAIT (AP) — A second group of Jordanian families arrived Monday to visit relatives imprisoned here on charges of collaborating with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. An Interior Ministry statement said the visits underlined Kuwait's respect for human rights and its "deep seated belief in the importance of human relations in the lives of individuals and peoples." The Kuwaiti statement did not say how many Jordanians were allowed to visit the prisoners this time. On a previous trip in June, 20 relatives came. These visits are arranged by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

PKK driven from border — Iraqi Kurds

DUBAI (AFP) — An Iraqi Kurd group said Monday it had driven Turkish Kurd guerrillas out of the Iraq-Turkey border region in two days of fighting over the weekend. Fawzi Atrushi, London spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said eight guerrillas from the separated Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) died in the clashes. "We now control the whole of the border region," Mr. Atrushi said, adding that the PKK was no longer in a position to launch attacks on Iraqi Kurds. The KDP launched "attacks on two fronts against the PKK in the border region around Zakho and on the Gara mountain, which were completely cleansed" of PKK guerrillas on Saturday and Sunday, he said.

Nablus to have police academy

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority is to construct a police training centre at Nablus on the West Bank after Israeli troops withdraw from the area, the Palestinian police chief said Monday. General Nasser Youssef, speaking after returning Sunday from a tour of Europe, said: "During my travels in Europe I collected funds to build a police academy at Nablus when Palestinians autonomy is extended to the town." Gen. Youssef, who visited Germany, Holland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden, said Palestinian police were ready to take over responsibility on the West Bank after the Israeli military redeployment. "We are ready to deploy in the West Bank and can take on our responsibilities during the first stage" of Palestinian autonomy in the territory.

Jordan hails self-rule accord, promises help to implement it

Arafat briefs Regent on autonomy accord, pays tribute to Jordanian support that produced it
Crown Prince hopes Washington signing will herald new approach to requirements of peace

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Monday briefed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on the self-rule agreement the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has reached with Israel and sought help from Jordan and other Arab and friendly countries for the Palestinian self-rule authority, which, he said, has inherited a "totally devastated nation."

The Regent welcomed the autonomy accord and expressed hope that "this milestone in political achievement would be a further reason for making better use of the international perception for rehabilitating the Middle East."

Mr. Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Au-

thority (PNA) and chairman of the PLO, flew here early Monday from Cairo, where he held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak shortly after the initialing of the accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank.

The Regent, who received Mr. Arafat and saw him off at the end of the six-hour visit, reiterated Jordan's support for the self-rule agreement, the signing of which will be attended by His Majesty King Hussein in Washington on Sept. 29.

According to Jordanian and Palestinian sources, the main purpose of Mr. Arafat's visit here despite the absence of the King — who began a visit to France and the U.S. on Sunday — was two-fold: He wanted to thank the Jordanian leadership on the support it provided through intervention with the Israelis

during the difficult negotiations that produced the accord and present a briefing on the agreement itself. The PLO chairman also met with prominent Palestinian personalities, including members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) living in Jordan, to explain the self-rule accord and seek their support.

In brief comments to the press after the meeting with the Regent, Mr. Arafat paid tribute to King Hussein's intervention with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which had helped clear a serious snag in the negotiations over the West Bank town of Hebron.

"The latest intervention came from King Hussein who telephoned Mr. Rabin on Hebron," Mr. Arafat said. "He helped us reach an acceptable solution on Hebron."

Mr. Arafat also sought help from Jordan as well as Jordan's intervention with other world powers to help the PNA to support the implementation of the self-rule agreement under which nearly three million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would go under PLO-administered autonomy.

The PLO leader's preoccupation with securing help was apparent in the comments the Regent as well as Mr. Arafat made in a joint interview with Jordan Television after the talks.

The Regent, on behalf of the King, expressed Jordan's keen interest in supporting and deepening the brotherly relations with the Palestinians.

"We would like to deepen the conviction among the Palestinians that Jordan

Self-rule deal draws both praise and denunciation

Combined agency dispatches

THE ISRAELI-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal for expanding Palestinian self-rule drew mixed reactions on Monday with some hailing it as a courageous breakthrough while others condemned it as a sellout.

Syria, Libya, Iran and hardline Palestinians described the deal as capitulation by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that would lead to an escalation of tension and violence.

But Western states and other Arab countries praised the courage of Israeli and Palestinian leaders and saw in the pact a breakthrough that would change the face of the

Middle East.

The accord, initiated on Sunday after marathon talks between Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the Egyptian resort of Taba, expands 16 months of Palestinian rule in Gaza and Jericho to the West Bank.

It envisages the pullout of Israeli forces from six cities and more than 400 villages but keeps Israeli troops in parts of Hebron.

In Cairo, the Arab League said the accord was an important step to an overall Middle East peace.

The secretary general of the Cairo-based league, Esmat Abdul Meguid, said it was now important to pursue quickly the peace process be-

tween Israel and Syria and Lebanon.

There should also be efforts to "guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," he said.

Dr. Abdul Meguid described the Israeli-PLO accord initiated Sunday as "a step on the road to a just and comprehensive peace" in the region.

"The consolidation of the peace process requires the goodwill (of the parties concerned) and the establishment of confidence to accelerate the negotiations in all areas," he added.

The PLO's main rivals, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, said the deal

was a trivial sellout that "has given Israelis what they wanted... no sovereignty for Palestinians."

A joint statement in Damascus by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine said the deal was a "dangerous abandoning of the Palestinian national rights." They vowed to continue their armed struggle.

Syria, whose own peace talks with Israel are stalled, said the agreement would lead to new tension.

"As a result of this accord which has abandoned the (Palestinian) rights, the situation in the Arab occupied



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Amman on Monday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Clashes in Hebron, mourning in Nablus

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians and Israelis in civilian dress threw stones at each other in downtown Hebron on Monday, a day after Israel agreed to pull most of its troops out of this troubled town by spring.

Israeli troops stood by as one of the Israelis ran to his car, got out a stun grenade and then hurled it into the group of several dozen Palestinian teenagers.

Soldiers chased some stonethrowers through side streets, but did not fire teargas or rubber bullets, apparently in an attempt to avoid casualties that might further raise tensions.

The clash came a day after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reached agreement on the fate of Hebron as part of their overall accord on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

"The agreement has been criticised by both sides in Hebron, home to 120,000 Palestinians and 450 Jewish settlers. Under the accord, troops would pull out of most of Hebron within six months and only stay in some areas to protect the settlers."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche said Monday he was disappointed because the settlers were allowed to stay.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians of Nablus, waiting for the long-promised launch of autonomy, mourned their dead Monday after Israeli troops killed three youths in less than a week.

Shops, businesses and some schools closed down in protest at the shootings, which have also left 20 wounded since Wednesday.

Young militants burnt tyres and briefly threw stones at soldiers after dawn, but the occupied West Bank town was largely quiet.

The army manned roadblocks on all entrances but kept a low profile in the city. PLO activists called the strike and mourning after troops put bullet through the chest of Amur Tambour, 19, during clashes on Sunday.

He died just before Israel and the PLO struck the deal. Tambour was the 74th Palestinian to be killed by Israeli bullets in the territories since autonomy began in 1994, and few dare hope he will be the last.

Soldiers shot dead two Palestinians in Nablus last Wednesday.

Bosnia talks salvaged

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.S. negotiators managed on Monday to salvage high-level Bosnian peace negotiations, wrestling a last-minute promise from Bosnian government leaders that they would attend talks in New York.

The government had threatened to boycott the meeting Tuesday unless rebel Serbs in Bosnia pledged not to try to join with Serbia proper. But Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters after emerging from a meeting with two U.S. envoys that his side would attend after all.

"I think we have had a successful meeting and that we have clarified some things... so Bosnia-Herzegovina continues its legal existence," Mr. Silajdzic said. "Now we can attend the meeting in New York."

U.S. envoys Robert P. Owen and Christopher Hill had arrived from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where they had met with Serbian leaders on the planned peace talks at the United Nations. Their trip to Sarajevo was unscheduled, underlining the urgency of their mission.

Jordanians view Taba accord with a mixture of optimism and scepticism

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian politicians' reactions to the new Israeli-Palestinian agreement on autonomy seem to be identical to those drawn when Oslo I was reached between the two sides, with some politicians welcoming the accord as a new chapter in the march towards establishing an independent Palestinian state and others belittling the landmark agreement to yet another "defeat" for Palestinians.

A marked difference this time around is that Jordan hailed the new deal unre-

servedly in comparison to its muted reaction to the original Oslo accord which was secretly drawn by Palestinian and Israeli negotiators away from consultations with Jordan which had provided an umbrella for Palestinian negotiators under the Madrid formula.

Unlike Oslo I the new accord between the Palestinians and Israelis was reached after the acknowledged and appreciated intervention of Jordan, which, according to both Palestinian and Jordanian officials, had acted as a mediator between the two sides, helping to unblock

the often deadlocked talks at Taba.

The unreserved official welcome of the agreement, however, did not change the nature of attitudes of Jordanian politicians towards the agreement since Oslo, which ranged from the totally optimistic, to the grudgingly accepting to the extremely rejectionist.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, after a meeting with Mr. Arafat who briefed him on the agreement Monday morning, hailed the deal describing it as "a political achievement and a step to utilise the international perception for rehabilitating the Mid-

dle East."

Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, signed in October 1994, has put the Kingdom at ease vis-a-vis the outcome of the Middle East peace process as far as its relations with Israel are concerned, analysts say. Hence, the marked ease with which the leadership has received this latest breakthrough.

His Majesty King Hussein played a key role in smoothing the differences between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Arafat in their negotiations, and his efforts have been appreciated by Mr. Arafat, who made it a point

to visit Jordan and announce his gratitude to the Jordanian Monarch and government.

Mr. Arafat thanked the King and "everyone in the Jordanian government," for helping him overcome the crises in the difficult negotiations. He said that "the latest intervention came from King Hussein who telephoned Rabin on (the issue of) Hebron, (thus) helping us reach an acceptable solution."

But Jordan's official reaction, which reflects the improvement in Jordanian-Palestinian relations following a period of tension since Oslo, failed to change the

traditional stands Jordanian politicians have adopted regarding the interim deal.

Mainstream politicians, toeing the official line, hailed the agreement, which one of them described as "the beginning of the end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank."

This optimistic view was, however, countered by a more cautious stand reminding the optimists of the limitations imposed by the agreement without ruling out the possibility of a "more promising picture of the situation as is," in the words of one well-placed politician.

According to this politician, there are three limitations in the way of establishing a fully independent Palestinian state, which he pointed out, were spelled out by Mr. Rabin himself on the eve of initialling the agreement.

These are: Israel's refusal to return to its pre-1967 borders, keeping a "united Jerusalem" under Israeli sovereignty, and retaining parts of the Jordan Valley as well as keeping the Jordan River as its security border between Jordan and Israel.

"I think they mean what

(Continued on page 7)

Publisher accused of pulverising Egyptian classics

CAIRO (AP) — As if troubles with censors and Muslim radicals were not enough, Egypt's writers have a new enemy. A publisher is accused of pulverising the works of famous Arab writers, including Nobel prize winner Naguib Mahfouz.

A trial opened Monday on a suit charging the Maktabat Misr Publishers with slashing steamy love scenes or altering the characters of women pictured as independent with an eye towards sales in conservative Saudi Arabia.

Other supposed changes, particularly in Mr. Mahfouz's works, were seemingly without reason. Helmy Al Nemem, a culture reporter who first found the tampering, says Maktabat Misr's manager, Salah Al Sahar, is "a frustrated writer" injecting his own words.

Maktabat Misr is said to have made changes in 36 books by the late Ihsan Abdul Qaddous, three by Mr. Mahfouz and one by the late Youssef Idris, known as the father of the Egyptian short story.

Abdul Qaddous, who died in 1990 and whose novels became popular movies, seems to have suffered the most. His two sons, outraged at the changes, have brought three suits against the publisher, for three novels.

"Usually if a book is not approved of, it is banned altogether, but never changed. This is a disgrace that has never happened in the history of literature," said one of the sons, Mohammad Abdul Qaddous.

Mr. Sahar denied to the Associated Press that he modified the works of Mr. Mahfouz and Idris and called the changes in Abdul Qaddous's books "corrections."

In other interviews, he said he had permission for the changes. He was quoted in the Egyptian magazine October as saying he altered Abdul Qaddous's works to market them in "a Gulf country," presumably Saudi Arabia.

Such a motive is not surprising given the growing constraints put on Egypt's writers and artists by religious conservatism.

Last year, Mr. Mahfouz, who is 83 and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988, was stabbed by an Islamic radical. His works and those of other authors have been censored by the government for touching on religious sensitivities. Even Egyptian movies, once known for liberal scenes, have gotten more conservative to satisfy Saudi tastes.

Abdul Qaddous's novels are banned in Saudi Arabia

because they probe explosive areas — women's psyche, sexuality and quest for independence.

The novel involved in Monday's suit, "Ana Horra," is about a young woman who rebels against traditions and ends with the heroine uttering the defiant words of the title, meaning "I am free."

In Maktabat Misr's version, her words are followed by "and she thought in her ignorance that marriage is a restriction, and she lived a corrupt life because of her incorrect understanding of freedom."

Mohammad Abdul Qaddous — a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist organisation — maintained the changes had nothing to do with religion.

"Anyone who considers my father's books as violating Islam is narrow minded. My father's books are about freedom," he said. "The changes were not made for religious reasons. They were made for commercial reasons."

Mr. Nemem said he found changes in Mr. Mahfouz's "The Sparrow and Autumn," "Cairo 30" and "The Beginning and the End," the last of which is about a woman who becomes a prostitute to help her impoverished family.

The novel contains the sentence: "He asked himself whether he should tell his brother what descended upon him in changes and developments, but he shrunk back and postponed it until later."

The Maktabat Misr version reads simply: "He asked himself whether he should tell his brother what descended upon him."

In the altered Idris book, "The Forbidden," one change has the words "licentious prostitute" becoming "licentious female."

Both Mr. Mahfouz and Idris's widow, Ragaa, have denied Mr. Sahar's assertion he was given permission for changes. Mrs. Idris said she would join the suit unless Mr. Sahar withdraws the editions.

Mr. Mahfouz is said to be too tired for a legal battle.

Mr. Abdul Qaddous's family is pursuing the case adamantly. It has hired a team of editors to go through the 52 of the writer's 60 books published by Maktabat Misr to find any changes.

"We are going to raise a case against (Sahar) for every story he changed so that when he finishes with one case, he will be faced with another," Mohammad Abdul Qaddous said. "The only reward he can reap for this action is to be shut down."

Sudan says Libya to expel 30,000 this year

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Libya has given 30,000 Sudanese workers until December to pack their belongings and leave the country, a Sudanese official was quoted as saying on Monday.

Salah Mohammad Osman, the acting secretary general for expatriates affairs, told the official Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper that Tripoli would give the expelled workers time to make an orderly exit and settle their affairs.

There have been "problems with the repatriation of Sudanese expelled from Libya and some of them returned by paying their own way," Mr. Osman told Al Sudan Al Hadith.

Sudanese Minister of State for Expatriate Affairs Tajeddin Al Hadi was in Libya to work out the problems, Mr. Osman said.

For those caught at the border, Khartoum has "distributed questionnaires to organise their transport and will help them in paying border taxes and customs," he said.

Nearly 400 Sudanese arrived at the Hamrat Al Sheikh border post in the west Sudanese province of Kordofan on Sept. 13. They had made a four-day trek across the desert under 40 degrees Celsius heat to reach the border, the paper said.

More than 1.5 million Sudanese work in Libya — mostly illegally — and during the past two weeks about 20,000 have been deported out of the country. They were usually expelled within 24 hours.

The paper said 10,000 arrived in Khartoum last week while the rest are waiting in the Libyan town of Al Kufra for transportation into Sudan. Large numbers in Tripoli and Benghazi are also waiting to go home, it added.

Libya is also expelling illegal immigrants from Egypt on grounds they were linked to militant activities in Benghazi, as well as Palestinians to punish Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat for making peace with Israel.

Ciller offers early poll in bid for new coalition

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Monday caved in to the rightwing Motherland Party (ANAP) and agreed to hold elections next year as a condition to bringing the movement into a new coalition, Anatolia news agency said.

If the Motherland Party accepts the proposal, elections will take place in June, four months ahead of the previously scheduled date of October. The party is to give its answer on Wednesday.

Ms. Ciller this weekend sought to form a new coalition with the Motherland Party, the main opposition party in the current parliament, but talks broke down over her refusal to agree to call an early election.

However, the prime minister, whose coalition government collapsed last week over a dispute with its previous junior partner, made a new offer to ANAP leader Mesut Yilmaz, agreeing to the early vote, Anatolia said.

According to the agency, her offer to the Motherland

Party revolved around four points, including a role for Mr. Yilmaz himself in a new government.

Other proposals, besides the call for June elections, included representation of the two parties in government proportional to their seats in parliament.

Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) has 182 and ANAP 96 out of a total of 450.

The final point said the new government should "concentrate on current issues" — in other words, it should not launch any new initiatives with a view to the upcoming elections.

Mr. Yilmaz described the coalition proposals as "constructive" and worth studying. He would give his reply Wednesday, the agency said.

The climbdown came after a hectic weekend of talks between Ms. Ciller and other party leaders, during which she had stressed there would be no early elections. But on Monday, she resumed negotiations with party leaders, meeting first with Yilmaz.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire aboard U.S. Navy frigate put out

BAHRAIN (AP) — A fire aboard a U.S. Navy frigate in the Gulf was extinguished without causing any casualties, an official U.S. Navy spokesman said Monday. It said the USS Gary was being towed to an undisclosed Gulf port to assess damage and make repairs. It did not disclose the extent of the damage nor say how serious was the blaze. The vessel reported the fire Sunday in one of its auxiliary machinery compartments, it said. Three crew members were treated on-scene for heat stress, the spokesman added. Personnel from the patrol ship USS Tempest and USS Cyclone as well as the destroyer USS Harry W. will help clean up the damage, it said. The cause of the blaze would be investigated.

Turkish court frees PKK chief's brother

ANAKARA (R) — A Turkish court has released the brother of the head of the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) who was detained at the weekend for trying to travel to Greece illegally, police said on Monday. A security court in the western city of Izmir freed Mehmet Ocalan on Sunday night without charges, a police spokesman told Reuters. Two suspected PKK guerrillas detained with him were remanded in custody, he said. Mr. Ocalan, his six children and the two suspected guerrillas were caught trying to board a privately-hired boat for Greece on Saturday. Anatolian news agency quoted Mr. Ocalan, the brother of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, as admitting he had attempted to leave the country without a passport and visa but only because he needed medical treatment abroad. He apparently believed it would be difficult for him to obtain the correct documents. Abdullah Ocalan's other brother Osman is a top PKK military commander.

Nephew of U.N. chief sentenced to 10 years

CAIRO (AP) — An Alexandria court on Sunday found a nephew of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali guilty of smuggling the hallucinogen LSD into Egypt and sentenced to 10 years in jail. The youth, Karim Raouf Ghali, 17, also was ordered to pay a fine of \$61,000 and customs duties of some \$847,000 for the smuggled tablets. The street value of the drugs was not immediately available. The Ghali family is expected to appeal. Judge Abdul nasser Ramdan, head of the Alexandria juvenile court, told Karim, his father and other relatives that the sentence was lenient. He noted that the initial years of the sentence are to be served in a juvenile detention centre. Police arrested Karim in his family's villa in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria after two students told police they had obtained LSD from him. During the 1½ hour court session, Karim admitted he brought the LSD into Egypt but said he thought he had the right to do so because it was for his personal use. "It would have been a crime if I harmed others with the LSD, but I did not," he told the court. He did not explain how the drug got into the other students' hands.

British lawyers to join Egyptian trial

CAIRO (AP) — A team of British attorneys will join Egyptian lawyers in defending 49 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group, charged with belonging to an illegal organisation. The four Britons, who are planning to arrive Wednesday in Cairo, will attempt to persuade authorities to reverse a presidential decree that ordered that the Brotherhood members be tried by a military court rather than a civilian one. "We want to make sure that justice is done. It does not seem that this will happen in a military court," Ali Mohammad Azhar, who will head the team, told the Associated Press. The trial, which opened Sept. 16, has caused an uproar among Egypt's opposition and human rights groups who charge that it is unconstitutional because the suspects are not soldiers. Military trials allow no appeal and often issue harsh verdicts. The Brotherhood is legally banned but had been tolerated by the government until last January when authorities began rounding them up and charging them with trying to overthrow the state. The Brotherhood contends that the arrests are aimed preventing the members from running in upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for November.

Kuwait asks for U.N. study of its waters

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait has asked the United Nations to investigate the existence of hazardous chemicals in its waters, which the local press has blamed on Iraqi ships sunk during the 1991 Gulf war. Quoted on Monday by the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas, Health Minister Abdul Rahman Mehlian said that "contacts were underway with the United Nations to conduct a study to evaluate the state of the water." He added that studies completed after the Gulf war by environmental protection agencies, including some from the U.N., "did not conclude the existence of chemical products." However, conventional ammunition aboard sunken Iraqi ships and oil spilled from three tankers had been discovered, he said. "Part of this oil did not reach our waters, while some was evacuated," he said.

Two Germans reported missing in Red Sea

CAIRO (AP) — Two Germans disappeared while diving off Egypt's Red Sea resort of Hurgada, and extensive searches have failed to locate them, police and diplomats said Monday. The German embassy confirmed that two German divers were missing but refused to give their names. Police said they were in their mid-20s. The two had rented a boat with a group of German tourists to go diving around the coral reefs at the island of Shadwan on Sept. 15, police said. They successfully completed their first dive, but did not emerge from a second, according to police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Germans were experienced divers and were working towards licences as diving instructors, a Cairo-based German diplomat said.

Gulf press critical of Israel-PLO accord

DUBAI (AFP) — The Arab Press in the Gulf expressed concern on Monday about the true benefits of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

"The latest accord," reached in Tabaa, Egypt, on Sunday "does not respond to the aspirations of the Palestinians," the Qatari daily Al Sharq said.

The official signing ceremony of the accord Thursday in Washington "will be the first step on a long and difficult road on which the Arabs should increase their support of the Palestinians," the paper added.

Another Qatari daily, Al Raya, said "the important thing is not to close the accord on paper but to translate it into fact," adding that peace must now be reached between Israel on one side and Syria and Lebanon on the other.

Qatar announced in July that it would open a representative office in the Palestinian autonomous areas, the first Arab Gulf state to do so.

The Gulf News in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) expressed concern that the accord was the fruit of too many concessions from PLO leader Yasser Arafat to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"It is feared that Arafat has negotiated from a position of weakness and made too many concessions," it said.

"Time will tell whether Arafat's and Peres' marathon sessions will achieve the desired results, bearing in mind that they have yet to 'sell' their agreement to hardline factions on both sides," the paper added.

Another UAE paper, Al Bayan, said: "Israel will do everything possible to stall each phase" of the peace process with the Palestinians.

The official Saudi daily, Al Madina, criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for announcing that "Israel would not withdraw its pre-1967 war border and that Jerusalem would stay under Israeli sovereignty."

"The statements by Rabin could shatter the remaining hope for achieving peace," the daily said, criticising the hostility displayed by the Israeli right to the accord.

"This proves that Israel, whether it is governed by the Labour Party or (right-wing) Likud, is not serious about achieving a just and global peace," the paper said.

In the next six months Israeli troops are to quit the heavily populated areas in the West Bank and elections will be held for an 82-member legislative council and a president, as the Palestinians take charge of their daily lives.

The two sides are to begin what are expected to be difficult negotiations no later than May 1996 on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the volatile issue of East Jerusalem.

Libya said to recognise Aided 'government'

NAIROBI (R) — Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aided's self-proclaimed government said on Sunday that Libya had become the first country to recognise it.

Earlier, a rival Somali faction said Libya had agreed to give military aid to General Aided.

Gen. Aided's radio station, monitored in Nairobi, said: "A statement issued by the ministry for foreign affairs of the republic of Somalia says that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has recognised the new government formed in Somalia following the general conference of Somalia organisations which ended in Mogadishu on June 15."

Libya had appointed an acting ambassador, Mustafa Salim Amuz, and an embassy official, it said.

Gen. Aided, whose fighters forced a U.S.-led United Nations peacekeeping mission withdrawal from Somalia in March, declared himself president in June. But no

other faction recognises his rule and nor, until the reported Libyan move, has any foreign government.

An Aided delegation was denied recognition by the organisation of African unity when it travelled to Addis Ababa in July for the annual OAU summit.

Last weekend Gen. Aided moved to extend his area of control by seizing the strategic town of Baidoa, 240 kilometres northeast of Mogadishu. But East African diplomats said there were still large areas outside Gen. Aided's sphere of influence.

On Saturday, the radio station of a rival, Osman Hassan Ali Atto, said Libya had agreed to give military aid to Gen. Aided. It said the offer was made by a Libyan delegation which visited Mogadishu last week.

It gave no details of the promised military aid in its Somali-language broadcast. Gen. Aided's own radio station has made no reference to the report.

Trial ends for 3 women suspected of killing pastor

TEHRAN (AFP) — The trial ended Monday at a revolutionary court here of three women accused of killing a Christian pastor and attempting two bomb attacks in Iran's holy places.

A verdict will be announced in a week for Farahnaz Anami, Baful Yafurs, and Maryam Shabazzpur, who have confessed to killing or complicity in the murder of Protestant pastor Tedhis Mikhaelian in July 1995, the judge said.

Mikhaelian's wife and two daughters, who were summoned to the court in Tehran, said they had no complaints against the defendants.

It was the first open trial to be held by a revolutionary court in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution and the families of the defendants and several foreign diplomats were in the audience. The trial opened on March 15.

Anami, 40, was also allegedly involved in the murder of another pastor, Mehdi Dubaj at about the same time as the murder of Mikhaelian.

OAU team in Algeria to study poll monitoring

PARIS (Agencies) — Organisation of African Unity (OAU) officials are visiting Algiers to discuss the group's role in monitoring Algeria's controversial presidential elections, the official Algerian news agency APS said.

OAU Deputy Secretary General Daniel Antonio is heading the delegation, which arrived late Sunday.

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, who is standing for the presidency, had sent letters to the heads of OAU, the Arab League and the United Nations asking them to send observers to monitor the November presidential poll.

Algerian officials say the three organisations had agreed to send hundreds of observers to watch the poll.

The country's main opposition parties reiterated on Sunday they reject the poll. They say it is aimed at consolidating the army's influence in government.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in violence pitting government forces against guerrillas since January 1992 when authorities banned a general election which Islamists looked set to win.

Algerian security forces have killed 41 armed militants over the past six days, APS said Sunday.

Five of the militants were shot dead in three incidents in the capital Algiers and the rest in operations in 15 towns and villages across the country, said the APS quoting an official statement.

In Chararba district of Algiers, security forces stormed a guerrilla hideout and killed two men.

Two others were killed in the capital's Anassers suburb after they were spotted by security forces. Another man, armed with an automatic

pistol and a dagger, was gunned down in Bentahia, in the outskirts of Algiers, the statement added.

Meanwhile Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi arrived in Mauritania on Sunday for a three-day official visit with a large delegation of businessmen, officials said.

Mr. Sifi will visit Mauritania's economic capital of Nouadhibou, where the two countries have built an oil refinery. They have cooperated in the energy sector since 1985. They also cooperate in the fishing and maritime transport sectors.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00 Mountain Men
15:30 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Los Mochos Englobis
17:30 Montaigne
17:50 Varieties — Turtara
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fast Five Review
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 You Bet Your Life
20:00 Piglet Piles
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Drama — True Blue
22:00 News in English
22:25 Trade Winds (Part III)
23:30 New York Under Cover
23:59 Grace Under Fire
00:30 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES
05:04 Fajr
06:12 Sunrise
12:27 Dhuhr
15:53 Asr
18:33 Maghrib
19:50 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 622543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 824328
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/28
Aqaba 23/36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Awad Al Bawandeh 832350
Dr. Ramzi Muzari 894788
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas 791155
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846770
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640945
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 273099
Alquds pharmacy (—)
815615

ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Omari 901266
Khalifah pharmacy 985117

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 63031
Police Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 661176
Reprints 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6428146
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciani 6641714
Shmiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musahar Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mulajra 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Amay, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 886100
Amal Hospital 697155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Bina Modern Hospital (09)999990
IBRD:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Amman (RJ)
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:05 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
21:05 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:45 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Vienna (OS)
14:55 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
16:45 Amman (DY)
09:45 Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Amman (RJ)
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:05 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
21:05 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
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13:40 Vienna (OS)
14:55 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
16:45 Amman (DY)
09:45 Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Banana (small) 300/200
Cucumber (small) 300/200
Eggplant 340/240
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 750/600
Guava 600/500
Lemon 250/200
Marrow (large) 370/300
Marrow (small) 180/120
Mulukhia 160/100
Okra 850/700
Onion (dry) 230/180
Orange 300/400
Pepper (hot) 230/180
Pepper (sweet) 220/150
Potato 340/250
Pumpkin 300/200
Spring Beans 750/600
Tomato 110/70
Water Melon 110/70

Inter-faith association calls for European integration, dialogue between religions

'Europe is witnessing an excess of economic interests'

Prince Ra'd launches campaign for safe mother, child health care

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The high-level delegation from the Luxembourg-based Inter-faith Association visiting Jordan Sunday came here to enlist the support of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the promotion of inter-faith dialogue in Europe, according to Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, President of the association.

"We would like the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies to send scholars to our institute in Luxembourg, so that we can put our efforts together and start co-operating in the field of inter-faith dialogue," Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

According to Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges, there is a great need in Christian-dominated Europe to learn about the other two monotheistic religions, Islam and Judaism.

The aim of the Inter-faith Association is to encourage dialogue between representatives of the three religions in Europe.

The association wants to facilitate this process by establishing a pool of international experts on Islam, Christianity and Judaism at the association, she said.

According to Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges, the two-year old association is already engaged in much press work and round-table discussions; so far, however, it does not host any scholars.

The delegation chose Jordan for its visit not only because Jordan has the only Institute for Inter-faith Studies in the Arab Middle East, but also because religious co-existence is well entrenched in Jordanian society and can serve as a model for Europe, Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges said.

Dalil Boubakeir, vice president of the Inter-faith Association and Grand Rector of the Paris Mosque, added that Jordanian society is open to and tolerant of non-Muslims, and that the Islam practised in this country is of a moderate kind, despite strict adherence to the Koran and the Sunna.

The Inter-faith Association is hoping for financial backing from the European Union to fund its projects.

"The European Commission has concentrated too much on economic and financial matters, while the spiritual dimension is really missing from its work," said Camille Wendling, co-secretary of the Inter-faith Association.

"A concern for philosophy and culture should become apparent in the activities of the European Commission," he said.

According to Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges, Europe must not only find ways to promote the peaceful co-existence of the followers of different religions within its borders. Another pressing issue to be addressed by European societies is the conflict between religion and secularism.

"Defenders of secularism want to exclude religion totally from daily life, which is creating unnecessary tension. European society has yet to find an answer to religion as such," she said.

"Society needs religion to strengthen its identity and to satisfy its spiritual needs. What we are witnessing in Europe is a movement of counter-spirituality and an excess of economic interests," added Professor Carlo degli Abbiati, co-secretary of the Inter-faith Association.

Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges stressed the importance of women getting involved in the work of the Inter-faith Association.

"Women must feel that they are also addressed by this inter-faith dialogue," she said.

The Inter-faith Association has contacted several other institutes engaged in similar studies, including institutes in Spain and in Israel, for future cooperation.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Monday launched a three-month national campaign to raise public awareness of available preventive measures against birth defects and disabilities caused by accidents.

Addressing a ceremony held to kick off the campaign, Prince Ra'd said that concerned health authorities should work out an easily applicable national strategy for preventing disabilities in children based on medical examinations for early detection of disabilities, avoiding inter-faith marriages and conducting pre-marriage tests.

The Prince said that the campaign aims at gathering necessary information on the different types of physical and mental disabilities in the country and providing Jordanians with sufficient information about mother and child health care.

Prince Ra'd said road accidents constitute one of the major causes of permanent injuries and disabilities and noted that more than 70 per cent of the casualties on the road are sustained by people below 21 years of age.

UNICEF's Ayman Abu Laban addressed the meeting by outlining the U.N. organisation's endeavours to provide protection to mothers and children.

Dr. Abu Laban said the campaign aims to promote the role of health care by raising public awareness of home and street safety as well as providing families with information on nutrition.

Prince Ra'd later opened a poster exhibition on household and road accidents with messages on how to avoid accidents that may result in physical and mental disabilities and how to safeguard the health of mothers and children.

The campaign is organised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Monday launches the mother and child health care public awareness campaign (Petra photo)

Franco-Arab film festival to unveil socio-political dilemmas of region

By Lola Kellani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ten films focusing on the different dimensions of political, social, and economic realities of Arab peoples will be screened as part of the Second Franco-Arab film Festival which opened Sunday evening.

The films to be aired approach subjects as varied as children's sexuality, dreams, pregnancy and unmarried women, refugee life, the rise of the Islamic movement and migration.

The list of directors of these movies includes names such as the Ferid Boughedir and Mounida Tlatli (Tunisia), Rachid Bouchareb and Merzak Allouache (Algeria), Marwan Baghdad and Samir Hachbi (Lebanon), Omar Qattan (Palestine), Jilali Ferhati (Morocco), and Youssef Chahine and Mounir Radi (Egypt).

France has been allocating approximately 60 million French francs a year in co-production grant aid to help finance Arab and African film-makers.

Silence of the Palace, the film aired last night, was one of the most successful Franco-Arab co-productions selling 200,000 tickets in France in 1995.

The documentary Dreams and Silence, carrying a long list of honorary prizes, presents, in parallel montage, the life of a Palestinian woman refugee living in Jordan and the discourse of a religious senator.

The film was shot during the Gulf war and attempts to expose the political conflict between the West and Arab-Muslim countries as well as the ideological arguments that took place among Arab states following the Gulf war.

It is directed and written by Omar Qattan.

The social and psychological effects of Islamic movements on the Algerian people, is presented through Bab El-Oued City, a film by the Merzak Allouache.

The film's background is the aftermath of the October 1988 riots, where a young worker accidentally puts his district in turmoil and causes serious events to follow.

Alexandria Always and Always, is a film about its producer and director, Youssef Chahine himself, who, in the film is possessed by the personality of Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Also as part of the festival two lectures on the cinema will be held at two different locations. The first will take place at the French Cultural Centre, by director and writer Mounida Tlatli, who will speak about "Women and the Arab Cinema".

The second lecture, Arab Cinema in the Nineties, will be presented by both producer Mounir Radi, and writer/director Samir Hachbi.

The French Embassy and the Shoman Foundation are sponsoring the festival, which will run until Oct. 1.

Man arrested in connection with slaying of sister

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

RUSEIFEH — A 20-year-old woman was killed on Sunday by her brother in Ruseifeh for alleged adultery, according to informed sources.

On Sept. 24 Khalil Hamed, 25, drove his sister Lina from Marka to Ruseifeh and parked his vehicle near a football field owned by the Ruseifeh Phosphate Company, the source told the Jordan Times Monday.

"Khalil parked his car in a valley, asked his sister to descend from the car, then struck her on the head with a rock, grabbed a knife and slashed her throat," the source said.

"Lina was wearing a red shirt with white stripes, and her body was found on the ground in a pool of blood," said one Ruseifeh resident who lived close to where the body was discovered.

One source told the Jordan Times that Lina, who is single, was four months pregnant.

The victim's family discovered their daughter's pregnancy last week and decided to kill her to "cleanse the family's honour," the source said.

But a close relative told the Jordan Times that Lina's family decided to kill her because she was having a relationship.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Monday would only confirm that a female was murdered in the Ruseifeh area, and her brother had been arrested in connection with the crime.

This is the second reported case this week of a woman being killed in a suspected crime of honour. Lina Hamed is also the sixth reported victim of this sort this year.

Free zones to employ retired servicemen in security posts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) is to provide security to the Free Zones Corporation (FZC) sites in Jordan under an agreement signed by the two sides here Monday.

JESORS groups retired military personnel who, under the agreement, will take on the duty of guarding the property and goods of investors at the free zones sites in Aqaba and Zarqa.

According to FZC Director General Falaq Qudab the step was taken after investments in the free zones increased. The free zones house the goods of nearly 800 private sector investors and nearly 70 factories.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker approved the arrangement and entrusted the two sides to prepare a plan and to follow up its implementation, according to Mr. Qudab.

The agreement was deemed necessary in view of the need for ensuring security for the property of investors and to encourage investors to expand their industrial and commercial projects in the free zones, Mr. Qudab said.

The move would also create jobs for retired servicemen, he added.

JESORS Director General Hani Majali, who signed the deal with Mr. Qudab, said he hoped that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordan Electricity Authority as well as commercial centres and private organisations could all benefit from the service of the retired military personnel.

TCC to start collecting car phones

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) announced that today it will start collecting car telephones from subscribers who will be provided with cellular telephone services through the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS). A TCC statement said that subscribers will receive a refund of JD 500 upon handing in their car telephones to TCC offices near the Jordan Radio and Television station. The deadline for the handover is Oct. 4. It was also announced that subscribers will have their cellular telephones linked to the JMTS system free of charge. JMTS General Manager Mithqal Asfour said that the company's services will cover the Amman, Balqa, Zarqa and Madaba governorates in the first stage.

ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

* Classes competition from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

* Opening ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

* Foal at foot, Junior male & female championships starting after opening ceremony

FRANCO-ARAB FILM FESTIVAL

* Lecture in French "Women and Arab Cinema" by Mounida Tlatli at the French Cultural Centre at 5:00pm.

* French-Tunisian film "Halfaouine, L'Enfant Des Terrasses" at the French Cultural Centre at 6:30pm.

* Egyptian film "The Visit of Mr. President" at Concord Cinema at 8:30pm.

SWISS CULTURAL WEEK

Exhibitions

* Two photography exhibitions: "Swiss Photographers since 1840 until today," and "Face to Face with Switzerland," at the RCC.

SHORT STORY RECITAL

* Short story recital by Dr. Hind Abul Sha'r at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00pm

NEWS

* McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Centre at 5:00pm.

DARAT AL FUNUN ACTIVITIES

Lecture

* "Petra through the lens of an architect" by Ammar Khammash at 7:00pm.

Exhibitions

* Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery.

* Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House.

* Painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

* "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Ali Bernamet

* Open Air Sculpture workshop.

* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photography exhibition "Islam in Spain" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, at 5:00pm.

* Jordanian-Syrian-Turkish products at King Abdullah Gardens, Al Bassam Hall.

* Abstract artworks by Abdullah Tamimi entitled, "Colours of Peace," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Works by Hani Khazaleh at the Goethe Institut, Jabal Amman.

SCENE FROM A FRONT YARD: Men relax around a game of 'sejeh' (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)



Mayhew: No compromise on Northern Ireland disarming

SYDNEY (R) — Britain said Monday that peace in Northern Ireland would be advanced if Republican and loyalist guerrillas vowed not to be the first to resort to violence.

However, London would not soften its demand that paramilitaries disarm. Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told a luncheon in Sydney.

Sir Patrick said no violence pledges would advance the British-ruled province's peace process but could not be a substitute for a surrender of illegal arms.

"It would be an advance I think," Sir Patrick said when asked if last month's declaration by loyalist guerrillas, that they would not resort to arms first, could be a way forward.

"But there really must not be any compromise... there cannot be any excuse at all, no justification whatever, for threatening to revert to the use of violence or for supporting the use of violence."

lence."

The peace process in Northern Ireland has reached an impasse over London's demand that paramilitary groups, including the Irish Republican Army (IRA), must start disarming before all-party peace talks can begin.

But Irish officials have suggested a way forward would be for the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein to match last month's pledge by loyalists not to be the first to resort to arms.

The IRA called a ceasefire one year ago but Sinn Fein says that giving up arms before talks would amount to a surrender.

The IRA's loyalist foes also do not want to make the first move to hand over their weapons. Sir Patrick said he hoped an international commission proposed by his government could be set up to oversee the scrapping of arms, but added his voice to criticism of Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams for warning of a possible return to violence.

Echoing remarks made by British and Irish prime ministers at the weekend, Sir Patrick asked rhetorically if Mr. Adams' comments were a threat of violence.

"What possible excuse can there be for a return to violence," he said, rejecting Mr. Adams' view that demands for a surrender of weapons before talks could reignite violence in Northern Ireland and sink the peace process.

"If on the other hand a return to violence is actually being threatened, then that underlines the validity of the fears British people have."

Mr. Adams, making some of his gloomiest remarks on the peace process, told British radio Friday: "Architects of the process are pessimistic. We see the process as being doomed to failure."

British Prime Minister John Major said after talks with his Irish counterpart John Bruton in Spain Saturday that Mr. Adams had the power to ensure

there was no return to violence. Mr. Bruton said Mr. Adams' remarks were unhelpful.

Mr. Major and Mr. Bruton agreed to step up their efforts to push forward the peace process and intensify their contacts.

Sir Patrick, who spoke at the end of a six-day visit to Australia, said Britain was prepared to find solutions to the impasse, despite its firm stand on the need for paramilitaries to disarm. "We are not just sitting and looking at a road block but trying to find a way around it," he said.

Sir Patrick was due to leave Sydney Monday night for Auckland for several days before returning to London.

He is being accompanied by a small group of Northern Irish businessmen who want to boost exports and stimulate inward investment in the province in the wake of the cease-fires.

Police break up protest near U.S. embassy in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Police used water cannons to break up a protest near the U.S. embassy here Monday against a resumption of sales of U.S. military hardware to India's arch rival Pakistan, witnesses said.

About 300 people chanting anti-American and anti-Pakistani slogans were doused with water cannons after they broke through steel barricades and tried to storm the U.S. embassy, they said.

"USA down, down," the demonstrators shouted. The protest was organized by the National Students Union of India (NSUI), which claimed U.S. defence sales to Pakistan would upset the military balance in South Asia.

"Such mindless U.S. acts

shall further aggravate tensions and suspicions and worsen the already existing situation in the region," the NSUI said.

The Indian government has also condemned the U.S. Senate's vote last week to allow restricted supply of military hardware to Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee described the U.S. Senate's decision as "unfortunate" and said it could lead to an "unintended and undesirable arms race."

The Senate voted to allow Pakistan to receive \$370 million worth of military equipment in a one-time waiver of a 1985 amendment freezing military aid to Islamabad if it did not put a verifiable cap on its nuclear programme.

The resolution was sponsored by Senator Hank Brown who said it was unfair that Islamabad had paid \$1.4 billion for military equipment in 1989 but had been prevented from receiving the shipment due to the sanctions.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the subcontinent's independence from Britain in 1947. Two of the wars were over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, while the third led to the division of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh.

Western countries have voiced fears that the Kashmir conflict could trigger a nuclear war between Pakistan and India, which tested a nuclear device in 1974.

Advocate of Taiwan independence wins presidential nomination

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — An advocate of Taiwan independence — a former dissident who spent 22 years in exile — was chosen Sunday night to represent the main opposition in next year's presidential election.

Peng Ming-min, 72, bear rival Hsu Hsin-liang, former chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party, by 47,661 votes after the final contest in the run off party election, open to voters island-wide.

Party Chairman Shih Ming-teh said Mr. Peng received a total of 177,477 votes compared to 129,816 for Mr. Hsu.

The party is expected to formally announce Mr. Peng as its presidential candidate later this week.

Mr. Peng had spent 22 years abroad and Mr. Hsu, 54, was in exile for 10 years. Both had been branded subversives for promoting Taiwan's independence from mainland China. Both governments consider Taiwan a part of China, but each views the other as illegitimate.

The presidential election in March will be Taiwan's first by universal suffrage. In the past, presidents were chosen by a rubber stamp Electoral College dominated by the ruling Nationalists, who fled the Communist takeover of mainland China in 1949.

Mr. Peng and Mr. Hsu emerged as the front-runners after the party's primary election in June.

Mr. Peng, a former professor, was arrested by the government in 1964 and jailed for 13 months before leaving for Sweden and then the United States in 1970. He returned to Taiwan in 1992 and joined the DPP early this year.

Mr. Hsu, a disenchanted Nationalist, emigrated to the United States in 1979. He returned illegally in 1989 and was jailed on sedition charges, but was pardoned and released a year later.



CARNAGE IN FRENCH VILLAGE: Firemen carry away the body of one of the people who were killed in a street of the French village of Cuers, near Toulon. A 16-year-old boy went berserk, killing 13 people and wounding 9 others before turning his gun on himself (AFP photo)

Suu Kyi says her release is no indication of change in Burma

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Burmese democratic activist Aung San Suu Kyi says her release from house arrest is no indication of change in Burma and that it should not result in an torrent of foreign investment and aid for the current junta.

"I am just one person who has been released, why should that make a difference?" Ms. Suu Kyi said in an interview published in the Sunday Star.

She added that there are still thousands of political prisoners in Burma, which chose her opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), to lead the country in 1990 elections.

The military government refused to recognise the election, and imprisoned Ms Suu Kyi and thousands of other NLD members soon after. The 1991 Nobel Peace winner was released from house arrest earlier this year.

Britain is reported to be

the biggest investor in Burma up to March 1 this year with a total of \$647.76 Million, followed by France with \$465 million. The United States ranked fifth with \$203.19 million.

"I believe aid should be gradual and conditional on the process and pace of democratisation," she told the Sunday Star two weeks ago at her house in Rangoon.

The 51-year-old popular activist believes the military government is trying to pattern itself on the Indonesian political system, where the military is dominant.

She declined to say if NLD was acceptable to her NLD and added, "it is not for NLD to say. The question is whether it is acceptable to the people of Burma."

On the new constitution being drawn up, which might bar Burmese married to foreigners from holding political posts, she said, "some say it is aimed at me — that would be a great pity because no national consti-

tution should be written with one person in mind," she added.

Ms. Suu Kyi married a British academic 23 years ago, but held on to her Burmese nationality. She has refused to go overseas or to see him in Britain for fear the junta may not allow her back into the country.

Ms. Suu Kyi supported the proposed admission of Burma into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) but noted that Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said that would not be immediately possible.

She said she prefers calling her country Burma and added India, China and Japan also have old names that are not indigenous and this did not detract from their greatness.

The junta uses the name Myanmar, which preferred by some ethnic groups within the country.

Hong Kong's Patten promises to battle on over passports

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten, under attack from both Britain and China for saying some 3.3 million Hong Kong people should be allowed to live in Britain, vowed Monday to continue his fight.

"It's for me to go on putting Hong Kong's case as governor of Hong Kong and I will continue to do so," Mr. Patten told reporters in the British colony, due to return to Chinese rule in less than 650 days.

About half of Hong Kong's six million people are eligible for British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC) passports, which function as travel documents but do not give their owners the right to settle in Britain.

In a BBC programme broadcast in Hong Kong Sunday Mr. Patten called for BDTC passport holders to have their British right-of-abode restored.

"I think that those who qualify for a BDTC passport, for a British passport, should be qualifying for something that if necessary gives them the right of abode as well as coverage when they are travelling," he said.

Mr. Patten denied Monday that resurrecting the passport issue would damage prospects for a hard-won visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian

Qichen to London in October, and shook off charges he was raising false hopes in the British colony.

"I think all of us recognise the arguments that are put on the other side," Mr. Patten said.

He also expressed surprise about the hullabaloo created as a result of his comments.

"I think the Hong Kong people are pretty realistic about the prospects, all of us are pretty realistic about the prospects, but it doesn't mean we can simply walk away from the argument."

Mr. Patten said he was simply reiterating policy formulated six years ago.

China was angered by Hong Kong's calls for full British passports, which reached a crescendo after the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Britain responded by granting full British passports to 50,000 heads of households.

But the demands on Britain have largely been forgotten as Hong Kong people turn to more hospitable shores ahead of the June 1997 handover of Hong Kong to China.

Over 1,000 people a week depart in search of the security of a foreign passport. Canada and Australia are the top two destinations.

China has again lost no time in lashing out at Mr. Patten.

Patten, an old enemy whom Beijing once described as a criminal for a thousand generations for daring to implement democratic reforms in Hong Kong ahead of the 1997 handover.

Li Weiting, a senior official at the local branch of the Xinhua News Agency, the de facto Chinese embassy here, said Mr. Patten's comments were not conducive to Sino-British relationship ahead of Foreign Minister Qian's visit to Britain.

Until 1962, Hong Kong citizens were automatically considered British citizens with all the rights and privileges accorded to those born in the British Isles.

But Britain has tightened its immigration policy to prevent automatic entry to colonial and Commonwealth subjects.

Reaction in Britain to Mr. Patten's call was almost entirely negative. "Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten has lost touch with reality," the British Sunday Express commented in an editorial.

"He appears to have no idea that people in Britain are deeply nervous of further waves of immigration. We have been kind enough to the industrious Hong Kong Chinese and more than 200,000 are already heading to Britain under a special deal. That is quite enough."

Tabloid says Diana had secret tryst

LONDON (AP) — A Sunday tabloid said Princess Diana had another "secret tryst" with married rugby player Will Carling, but he said it was just a coincidence they were at the same sports clinic. In August, Carling acknowledged a friendship with the princess. His wife of 15 months said she had determined it was no more than a friendship. The News Of The World carried front page pictures Sunday of the 34-year-old princess in workout clothes and Carling in trousers and a shirt leaving the west London clinic separately, and on inside pages printed photos of them entering the building. Times printed below the pictures indicated they were in the same building for 26 minutes. Near the end of an accompanying report, the newspaper says "there is no suggestion of a physical relationship with Carling." Carling said Sunday that he had gone to the clinic for a pre-arranged session with his physiotherapist and did not see the princess. Press Association, the British national news agency, said sources close to Buckingham Palace suggested it was a chance meeting, and said newspaper reports of the incident were misleading. In August, the News Of The World said 29-year-old Carling and the estranged wife of Prince Charles had been having secret "trysts." Julia Carling, Carling's wife of 15 months, was quoted then as saying the two were just friends, but, "I am sad that Will put himself in that position and that the princess did as well."

Estefan questioned in deadly boating accident

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (R) — A speeding wave runner struck singer Gloria Estefan's powerboat Sunday and its driver tumbled into the boat's propeller to his death, the Florida Marine Patrol said. Investigators questioned Estefan and her husband, music producer Emilio Estefan, who was at the helm of the couple's 11-metre motorboat at the time of the accident. Neither was injured. "We're trying to piece together what took place this afternoon," said Capt. Mike Lamphear of the Florida Marine Patrol. "It appears that the young man on the wave runner was attempting to jump the waves right behind the Estefans' boat, and fell into the propeller or onto-board motor." An examination of the Estefans powerboat indicated that the wave runner had struck the boat's left side, he said. The driver of the wave runner was then sucked into the powerboat's twin 250-horsepower outboard engines. There was no plan to charge Emilio Estefan in the accident at this time, Capt. Lamphear said. The musician, who has produced most of his wife's hit recordings including "Mi Tierra," immediately volunteered to take a blood alcohol test, he said.

Russian TV pulls the plug on Solzhenitsyn

LONDON (AFP) — Russian public television has decided to axe a regular 15-minute social and current affairs slot by pro-nationalist writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Moscow's commercial NTV station reported. Announcing the move, Mr. Solzhenitsyn's wife Natalya told journalists that the management of the television "had not even thought it necessary to notify Solzhenitsyn himself of this fact," the report monitored here by the BBC said.

Reagan finds peace with his family — Newsweek

NEW YORK (R) — Alzheimer's disease has brought former U.S. President Ronald Reagan closer to his family after years of estrangement, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday.

In its issue to be published Monday, the weekly magazine quoted Nancy Reagan as saying a new closeness

had enveloped a family whose bitter feuds have been dragged through the media in the past.

"I think any illness brings a family closer together," Mrs. Reagan said in a written response to questions posed by the magazine about her husband's health.

"It (the disease) brings things into focus and should

reshuffle your priorities," she added.

Mr. Reagan, 84, has Alzheimer's disease, a degenerative illness with memory lapses as one of the main symptoms.

Newsweek said old hostilities had ended with the couple's daughter, Patti Davis, who once described her mother as a manipula-

tive pill-popper and her father as cold and remote.

Their relationship began to change before Mr. Reagan was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease. "He would write me notes," said Patti.

"He was trying to say to me, 'I'm 82, I'm 83. I'm not going to be here much longer. And I love you and

we love you'," she added.

Patti's reconciliation with her mother was slow and sometimes painful, wrote Newsweek, but they had managed to confront the past together, including Patti's posing nude in Playboy magazine.

"We made our first tentative, baby steps towards reconciliation," Nancy Reagan said.

Davis told the magazine she had found peace with her mother and spoke to her daily on the phone.

The article said the Reagan family had a pact of silence about the former president's condition adding that Nancy even refused to allow her husband to be photographed.

"As Reagan fades, Nancy has found solace in her extended family," Newsweek wrote.

The magazine said Mr. Reagan was also seeing a lot of his son Ronald as well as Maureen and Michael, children from his first marriage to Jane Wyman.



French Gendarmes cover a body of one of the people who were murdered in a village street of Cuers, near Toulon (AFP photo)

French killer — a shy boy with Hitler pictures

CUERS, France (AFP) — A teenager who went berserk killing 13 people in a shooting spree was a shy boy who kept pictures of Hitler and neo-Nazi books in his bedroom, according to the mayor of this southern French village.

Mayor Guy Guigon said Gendarmes had found the books and pictures at the boy's home at Solles-Pont, a village six kilometres from here.

Eric Parenti, who committed suicide with his own gun Sunday, was a taciturn loner without boy or girlfriends, villagers in Solles-Pont said.

"He was a rather introverted pupil, secretive and shy. He visibly avoided contacts with his comrades," said one of Eric's former teachers at a local school.

The teenager first shot dead his mother Marie-Jeanne, stepfather Yves Bichet and 11-year-old half-brother and then beat them over the head with a hammer, police said.

The bodies were found overnight Saturday by another half-brother, Jean-Yves.

The teenager, a pupil from a technical high school in the Mediterranean port of Toulon, then walked the six kilometres to this village and fired on anything that moved.

Lieutenant-Colonel Marcel Kapfer, who heads the Gendarmerie (militarised police) in the southern Var Department, said Monday that two weapons were found near Eric's body: A .22 rifle belonging to his stepfather and a .22 pistol, along with a box of cartridges.

Seven of the victims died on the spot. One of them was a 17-year-old classmate, Alan Guillemette, who was shot in the head when he answered the door after Eric Parenti rang the doorbell.

Guillemette died in the helicopter that was taking him to hospital. When Eric arrived in the village square, he shot dead a 75-year-old woman, Andrée Poletta, and another 75-year-old, shopkeeper Mario Pagan. Another victim was a father of five, Moroccan building worker Mohammed Maared.

Two others died as they tried to withdraw cash from an automatic bank teller.

It was when Gendarmes moved in to try to halt the carnage that Eric turned the gun on himself, firing a bullet into his head.

Shopkeeper Frederic Baris said of the boy: "He didn't look particularly worked up. I saw him walking calmly, without hurrying, holding a rifle."

Cafe owner Guy Sintest said the boy was "very calm. He looked as if he was out hunting. He put the gun to his shoulder, took aim and opened fire."

On Monday, the number of Eric's victims rose to 13 when one of the wounded died in hospital.

The latest victim was a 59-year-old man who was hospitalised in a coma in the southern port of Marseille Sunday, hospital sources said.

The death left six wounded, two of them very seriously ill.

French heavyweights return to political scene after elections

PARIS (AFP) — French political heavyweights Edouard Balladur, Michel Rocard and Charles Pasqua made a successful comeback in parliamentary by-elections and a Senate poll Sunday.

Former Prime Minister Balladur, defeated by Mr. Jacques Chirac in presidential elections last May, was re-elected as a deputy to the National Assembly in a by-election in what had been considered a foregone conclusion in his Paris constituency.

His campaign spokesman, Nicolas Sarkozy, former budget minister, regained his seat as deputy in another safe constituency at Neuilly, west of the capital.

In addition to Mr. Sarkozy, 10 other former ministers in the Balladur government that stepped down in May have been returned to sit in parliament when it reopens next October following a series of by-elections that began in June.

The only failure among Mr. Balladur supporters standing Sunday was that of former Cooperation Minister Bernard Debré, defeated in the central Indre-et-Loire Department by a Socialist.

Under French election law, ministers must give up their parliamentary seats to substitutes, but the latter must surrender their seats when ministers lose their portfolios, provoking by-elections.

The blunt-speaking Mr. Pasqua, who sided with Mr. Balladur in the presidential elections, was meanwhile re-elected a senator in his Hauts-De-Seine stronghold west of Paris.

Centre-right Senate Speaker Rene Monory, second-ranking in the state hierarchy after President Chirac, was comfortably re-elected in the Vienne Department, eastern France.

And Mr. Rocard, who was ousted as Socialist Party leader after his party's disastrous showing in European elections in June, 1993, was also elected to the Senate.

The Socialists, looking for signs of a turnaround in their fortunes since their trouncing in 1993 legislative elections and a comprehensive though better-than-expected defeat of their candidate, Lionel Jospin in the presidential poll, saw their party gain eight seats in the Senate elections, against two gains for the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic.

The Communist Party ended all square but the centre-right Union for French Democracy, a partner in the government, lost several Senate seats.

The French left made considerable gains in Paris, winning five out of the 12 seats that had to be filled in the capital.

The Communists, who previously had no seats in the capital, gained one, with four going to the Socialists who previously held only one.

The results had been expected after a good showing by the Socialists in municipal elections in Paris last June, while the right-wing vote was split by two dissident lists.

Socialist group leader in the Senate Claude Estier hailed the performance as a "new victory" for the left as a whole, including the Communists, ecologists and other groupings. Mr. Rocard described the Socialist result as a "fine success."

Spokesmen for the government parties put down the result as an "automatic consequence" of the municipal results.

Voting took place for 117 seats in Sunday's Senate elections.

Senators are elected for a nine-year term, with a third of the chamber being renewed every three years, by an Electoral College of 50,696 municipal and regional councillors.

There were a record 696 candidates for Senate seats, including rivals from within the components of the government headed by Alain Juppe.

Mr. Juppe can expect sniping on his economic performance from Mr. Balladur and his supporters, who also include former Defence Minister Francois Leotard.

Since taking office both he and Mr. Chirac have plunged in the opinion polls, condemned for their apparent inability to resolve France's economic and unemployment problems, and the decision to resume nuclear weapons tests.

China accuses U.S. of covert support for Tibetan independence

BEIJING (AP) — China, in an official editorial, accused the U.S. government Sunday of covertly supporting "independence for Chinese-ruled Tibet."

The Xinhua News Agency commentary marked the second time in four days China has criticised President Bill Clinton's Sept. 13 meeting with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"Time and again Washington has publicly admitted that Tibet is part of China and declared that it will not recognise an independent Tibet," Xinhua said in the editorial carried in several major newspapers.

"But covertly the U.S. government and the Congress have been backing the separatist activity of the Dalai Lama for a long time," Xinhua said.

The news agency did not identify any covert support beyond the Dalai Lama's well-publicised meetings with Mr. Clinton, this year and twice previously, and with members of Congress.

The United States briefly aided anti-Chinese Tibetan guerrillas in the late 1950s and 1960s.

Xinhua's strident tone contrasts with the tentative, but positive steps both sides are taking to improve relations after months of confrontation.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen was to meet his U.S. counterpart, Warren Christopher, in New York this week for talks on a possible summit between Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

On Friday, China ended a three-month delay and approved Mr. Clinton's choice of former Sen. James Sasser as ambassador to Beijing, pending Senate confirmation.

A day before the decision was announced, the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily called Mr. Clinton's meeting with the Dalai Lama "a serious political incident."

As in the People's Daily commentary, Xinhua accused the U.S. government of playing the "Tibet card" at a time when it should be trying to make amends for a summer-long dispute over Taiwan.

Mr. Clinton disregarded Beijing's objections in May and allowed Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui to attend his college reunion at Cornell University.

Typhoon sweeps southwest Japan; 3 missing

TOKYO (AP) — An American high school student and two Japanese men were missing in swollen rivers after typhoon Ryan brought heavy rain and winds of up to 168 kph (100 mph) to southwest Japan Sunday.

Police also reported five people injured, more than 950 houses flooded and 17 houses hit by other damage. Power failures caused by storm damage cut electricity to about 17,400 homes.

Police identified the missing American as David Stillwell, 17, son of Master Sgt. Gary Stillwell of Ohio, who is stationed at the U.S. military base in Iwakuni, 720 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

U.S. Marines rescued two other American students from the nearby Nishiki River, swollen by typhoon rains, said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Americans apparently were playing near the river, he said.

Rwanda wants deeds not words from U.N.

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda Monday urged the United Nations to round up the leaders of last year's genocide instead of organising another conference to discuss the refugee crisis.

"The United Nations must first ensure that planners of the genocide are arrested wherever they reside in foreign countries and brought to justice," presidential aide Colonel Frank Mugambage told state radio.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali sent his special envoy Jose Luis Jesus to Rwanda last week to organise a regional conference on the repatriation of two million Rwandan refugees languishing in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

But Col. Mugambage said the Kigali government opposed a new conference while the international justice system dragged its feet to punish the perpetrators of the genocide.

"Instead of having more conferences and meetings, the United Nations must speed up the implementation of previous recommendations and resolutions," Col. Mugambage, head of cabinet at President Pasteur Bizimungu's office, told the radio.

Extremist Hutus who slaughtered up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus between April and July last year are now living openly in refugee camps in eastern Zaire and Tanzania as well as European and African capitals.

Zaire this month promised United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, that it would arrest suspected killers on its soil but U.N. officials say it has yet to start doing so.

Senior diplomats said Rwanda has also asked the Tanzanian government to round up suspects on its soil.

The diplomats said the Rwandan government recently handed Tanzania a list of more than 400 extremist Hutus living in refugee camps in western Tanzania and demanded their arrests.

Earlier this month, the deputy prosecutor on a U.N. tribunal set up to try the ringleaders said trials could begin by the end of the year if the suspects were brought back to Rwanda.

Judge Honore Rako-tomanana said the first indictments could be issued in November but the tribunal's success depended on co-operation from countries where the ringleaders have sought refuge, which include France, the United States and Belgium as well as Zaire and Kenya.

Rwandan Rehabilitation Minister Patrick Mazim-haka and Zairean Deputy Prime Minister Gird Kamanda Wa Kamanda will meet in Geneva Monday to discuss ways of sending home the more than one million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire.

Zaire last month kicked out more than 15,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees and gave the UNHCR until the end of this year to send home all refugees on its soil.

In a sign of Zaire's growing frustration with the refugees, Rwandan radio said Zairean authorities Monday gave Rwandan Hutus living in the border town of Goma until the end of next week to leave the town and go back to their camps.

Diplomats however say a massacre this month of more than 100 Hutu villagers by Tutsi soldiers in northwestern Rwanda has made it unlikely the refugees will go home in the near future.

The killings in Kanama village dealt a blow to U.N. efforts for repatriation and raised fears the Tutsi-led army is out of control and hungry for retribution against the Hutu population.

The present government took power in July after Rwandan Patriotic Front guerrillas, based around the Tutsi minority, overthrew the Hutu regime which orchestrated the genocide.

Karachi peace talks heads for deadlock

KARACHI (AFP) — The Pakistani government and main opposition in strife-torn Karachi go into new talks Tuesday with hopes fading for chances of finding a quick solution to bloodshed in the country's largest city.

Tension was high in the city Monday at the funeral of two Mohajir Qumi Movement (MQM) activists killed in a gunbattle with security forces Sunday. Their deaths led to a new eruption of violence and at least 15 people were killed during the day.

The MQM and government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto go into their tenth round of talks since July in an increasingly hostile atmosphere, analysts say.

The MQM has accused the government of staging the gunbattles in which the two activists were killed and has stepped up charges that the authorities are carrying out extra-judicial executions.

The Mohajir group, which is demanding greater democracy and more government positions, also says the government is being "insincere" in the peace talks on ways to stop violence that has cost the lives of more than 1,400 people this year.

Nine previous rounds of negotiations have achieved little and a Western analyst in Karachi said the talks were stagnating.

"The government is trying to buy time in an effort to contain the violence," said the analyst. "The MQM may have been hoping to achieve something earlier, but are beginning to realise that is not going to happen."

Ajmal Dehlvi, chief negotiator of the group which represents Urdu-speaking immigrants from India since the partition of the sub-continent, has accused the government of holding talks "under pressure from foreign powers," an apparent reference to Ms. Bhutto's concern about the bad image abroad of the Karachi troubles.

Mr. Dehlvi says the MQM is continuing with the talks to avoid being accused of opting for violence rather than negotiation. He has repeatedly denied government claims that the party is behind most of the deaths.

The government is meanwhile pursuing its drive against the MQM.

Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar said an estimated 400 "terrorists" had been killed or arrested in recent months since the government intensified a security clampdown.

Hundreds of people are rounded up in lightning raids, a practice that has the MQM up in arms. Most people are usually released after questioning, but the MQM says the entire government policy is racist.

"Mohajirs are being targeted simply because they are Mohajirs," said Shoaib Bokhari, an MQM leader. "They are now harassing our women and old people."

He said female relatives of MQM activists are being harassed and even tortured, a charge denied by the government.

The MQM is particularly concerned about two female members, Rais Fatima and Shazia Farooq. The government admits Ms. Farooq is in custody, but the whereabouts of Ms. Fatima remain unknown and the government is evasive on the subject.

Karachi's violence is now also cutting a deeper scar on the national economy, financial experts say.

The MQM calls regular strikes, which it says is a democratic right. While figures on the losses suffered fluctuate widely, tax receipts and export earnings are down by millions of rupees, said one expert who added that "roughly 70 per cent of tax revenues are generated by Karachi."

"Investor confidence is down. Every time there is a strike or violence in Karachi, it hits international headlines and has a negative effect on foreign investors," said another financial consultant.

Prosecutors, defence lawyers will tie it together for Simpson jurors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Remember them, prosecutors will tell jurors.

Remember Nicole and Ron — a slender blonde in a black halter dress, a handsome young man in jeans and a tailored shirt — and the violence visited upon them. Remember the river of blood.

For prosecutors, the challenge of final arguments in the O.J. Simpson murder trial begins Tuesday with resurrecting the victims whose memory has faded in and out throughout the trial.

For defence attorneys, summation offers the chance to turn jurors' eyes in another direction — toward the racism, lies and frame-up allegations that constitute the heart of the defence.

Yes, remember the victims, the defence will say. O.J. Simpson remembers, too. He grieves for the mother of his two young children, and he did not kill her.

Defence attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. is likely to return to the themes of his opening statement, delivered eight months ago: Simpson was set up, victimised. And he will seek to convince jurors that the evidence is such a mess it would be a crime to convict Simpson.

"Johnnie Cochran will be over the top," predicted Loyola University law Professor Laurie Levenson. "He will be waving the flag and speaking from the mount."

Emotion will work better for the defence than the prosecution, Prof. Levenson said, although summoning images of the victims is key to the presentation.

"The victims have gotten lost," said Prof. Levenson, who has spent many days of the trial in the courtroom. "We have spent a lot of time with barking dogs and (DNA) alleles and police officers. It's time to get back to the victims."

Simpson, the former U.S. football star, is charged with the June 12, 1994, slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. They were slashed to death outside her Brentwood condominium as her two children slept inside.

It is a case with no eyewitness and no murder weapon. The evidence is circumstantial, and the way jurors see it is key to whether they can convict.

The prosecutor, who carries the burden of proof, has a more daunting task than the defence. That's why prosecutors get to speak twice — presenting their case and then rebutting whatever the defence says. The judge declined to set time limits for the presentations, and he agreed to allow some visual aids, such as videotaped snippets of testimony. The prosecutors' argument will be the last that jurors hear before they retire to begin deliberations.

"You have O.J. Simpson on trial here. (Prosecutor) Marcia Clark has to give the closing argument of a lifetime," Prof. Levenson said.

While opening statements were road maps showing where both cases intended to go, the final arguments offer a review of the journey completed and an interpretation of what was proven. Some topics likely to be addressed:

— Racism. The "race card" has been a subtext of the case from the beginning and eclipsed most other issues during the defence case. Appealing to a majority black jury, the defence is likely to argue racism as a motive for the frame-up. The prosecution, while disavowing Fuhrman, will say the defence is using racism to divert jurors from the only important issue: did Simpson

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Leap towards peace

THE AGREEMENT reached Sunday between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli government might not be to the liking of hardliners on both sides. But it certainly will not be the last between them.

It goes without saying that many aspects of the intractable conflict between the two peoples need to be resolved. The accord that was initiated in Taba by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is another significant building bloc, however, in the quest for a final settlement to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It represents a point of no return in the negotiations that should ultimately lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state.

The Rabin government's consent to pull out the Israeli army from most Palestinian population centres signifies an admission that Israeli troops were an occupying army and that Israel is prepared to end that occupation. It brings to an end a direct and daily confrontation between Israeli troops and the Palestinian people. It provides the Palestinians for the first time in 28 years with the opportunity to run their own lives by themselves.

Had it not been for the extremists on both sides this agreement might not have been reached. On the Israeli side, someone like Ariel Sharon, the former defence minister, vowed that if the Likud regained power in the 1996 elections it would revoke the agreement to "return Jewish control over these areas" in the West Bank. On the Palestinian side, opponents of Mr. Arafat in Palestine and elsewhere in the Arab World were quick to accuse him of a sell-out. Radio Damascus said the accord "has been concluded at the expense of the Palestinian side — the problem of Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause will remain unresolved."

We believe that under the circumstances both the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships are taking courageous steps on the right track for peace between the two peoples. Mr. Arafat and his negotiators are leaving no stone unturned in order to wrest concessions from a strong and powerful adversary. Neither he nor his ministers are giving up on their demand for full Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and in accordance with U.N. resolutions. He and his people have one goal, a Palestinian state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, and so far, they have not compromised on that goal.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin and his colleagues in the Labour government are edging closer towards meeting Palestinian aspirations, because they realise that unless Palestinian national goals are met real peace will not be achieved in the Middle East. Mr. Rabin, as he alluded in a recent interview, is slowly but surely trying to bring the Israeli public into accepting a historical compromise over the land of Palestine. What preoccupies him at the moment is his determination to win next year's election in order to complete what he sees as his mission of bringing peace to Israel.

What is needed now is to expedite the implementation of the agreement on the ground to make it difficult for Mr. Sharon and like-minded people to even attempt to reverse it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Rai Arabic daily Monday urged the government to implement recommendations made by Parliament concerning higher education in Jordan, saying that they would help the country to avoid confusion in university enrollment in the coming years. Bassam Emoush, who is a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said Parliament members held lengthy debates over the acceptance of students in universities to pursue their higher studies, but so far the government has failed to implement any of the recommendations passed at the end of the debates. It is regrettable that the government, which rushed to parliament draft laws needed for the Amman economic summit and secured Parliament's approval of them, has put aside or shelved Parliament's recommendations on higher education, argued the writer. He said that Parliament has recommended that state universities open evening classes, allow the private universities to accept more students and ask them to reduce their fees and link the numerous community colleges with state or public universities to allow college graduates to continue their studies in these universities.

A WRITER in Al Dustour called on Arab countries to participate actively in the upcoming economic summit in Amman so as to ensure no Israeli hegemony on Arab economies. Taher Adwan said that poor Arab presence in the coming meeting in Amman is bound to open the door for Israel to achieve its objectives at the expense of Arab interests. Some Arabs have been claiming that Jordan was against reconciliation among Arab countries but the fact that Amman has sent out invitations to all Arab states to take part in the conference next month and that it has been holding close contacts and exchanging visits with the leaders of the Arab countries in the past few years are sufficient proof that the Kingdom is serious in its efforts to end Arab differences and re-establish solidarity among Arab leaders and peoples, added the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

Clean bathrooms, garbage, civil society and Arab public space

SEVERAL GREAT mysteries routinely perplex me and many others who observe the Arab political scene in relation to the rest of the world: Why do Arabs often throw rubbish out of their car windows? Why is it so hard for Arab culture to provide clean bathrooms in public places? Why do we find it so difficult to adopt "democratic" systems and "civil society" structures similar to those in the Western industrialised democracies?

These may appear, at first sight, as three separate and totally unrelated issues. I would argue that they are deeply intertwined, and that they may help us to understand the deeper forces that drive modern Arab civic and political culture. The more that I am involved in regional and international discussion about political culture and governance systems in the Arab World, the more I find myself dissatisfied by the increasingly common Western and Arab inclination to blame most of our problems on the fact that we lack "democratic" and "civil society" structures.

These are essentially Western concepts that emerged in a post-Enlightenment European and North American context. As they have been defined by the broad Western experience of the last several hundred years (actually, less than a hundred years, if giving women full voting rights is a component of democracy), these concepts have taken on a particular meaning that is specifically rooted in the Western cultural experience.

Democracy and civil society as we know them today both affirm and demand two crucial concepts that define a person's place in the world: the concept of individual rights, and the concept of public space. Civil society tends to incorporate all of the principles and systems that we associate with modern, Western-style democracy: elections, political parties, total freedom of expression in the press and other fora, private organisations that work for political goals, an independent judiciary, separation of religion from state, and separation of the family realm from the public governance realm.

Most of these and other fundamental Western principles of civil society are not clearly visible in the Arab World because Arab cultural traditions and social values hold very different beliefs about the concepts of individual rights and public space. Civil society assumes that there is a public space in which all individuals have equal rights that are guaranteed by the laws of the state; this further assumes that the citizens had some meaningful say in how their state was formed, and how its laws are formulated and enforced. Most of these concepts that sit at the heart of "civil society" do not fully apply in Arab culture as they do in the West.

The "public space" concept may hold many of the keys to resolving some of the riddles of modern Arab political culture and individual behaviour, for most of our ailments reflect public events, while most of our achievements are in, and from the private realm. I would suggest that there is

no such thing "as public space" in Arab culture, and therefore the very concept of "civil society" itself may not be applicable to us. Here is where the garbage and the bathrooms take on important political as well as environmental significance.

Every time I see an Arab person throw garbage out of a car window, or even defecate in public (such as in an archaeological site or a public park), I do not necessarily get angry and accuse that person of being uncivilised. Rather, I ask myself: Why does that person act like this in public, while at the same time that same person is deeply courteous, sensitive and generous within the confines of his or her own home, neighbourhood or community space? The important, full question that must be asked is not why do most Arabs litter their streets and countryside; it is, rather, why do most Arabs spread their garbage and feces in public, but offer only generosity and hospitality in private? Why does private graciousness coexist so easily with public garrishness?

The bathrooms question falls within the same category. Why is it so difficult for modern Arab culture to maintain clean public bathrooms, even at places like international airports, while cleanliness is such an important, even sacred, value within the private realm of the family and the community? Other riddles of Arab life can also be resolved or explained by this same measure. For example, why do Arabs so often disregard the public law or courtesies while driving their cars, but in private (with their families or neighbours) they are models of respect and decorum?

I was reminded of this only a few days ago on my way back from southern Jordan to Amman on the desert highway. I was driving right at the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour, but was routinely passed by an array of public sector vehicles that must have been driving at least 130 kilometres per hour (these included, among others, a minister's official car, without the minister, and an army station wagon). I wondered to myself: Why do these guardians, enforcers and symbols of the law so nonchalantly disregard the law?

The answer may have much to do with how these and other Arab individuals relate to the very concept of "public space." The manner in which people behave "in public" provides important clues to their deeper political values and cultural identities. I suspect that Arabs do not at all relate to the concept of "public space," because public space is not yet seen to be a valid concept in our cultures. We seem structurally or temperamentally unable to provide clean public bathrooms because the very idea of a "public realm" is still somewhat fuzzy. The public space that does exist has been almost totally appropriated by the two central actors in modern Arab culture — the state and the tribe. Between the state and the tribe, there is almost no space for anything substantive in our modern Arab

cultures.

Anything that takes place in society that has meaning relates either to the state or the tribe — i.e., to the government's dominant control of power and its symbols in the fields of finance, employment, religion, pan-Arab national mythology, history and security and the means of violence, or to private families' and tribes' spheres of influence. The small zones that fall in neither the territory of the state nor of the tribe — the public bathrooms, the open road — are perceived by most Arab individuals as zones of no responsibility.

This is the twilight zone of modern Arab identity — a public space where everyone is anonymous, where the rules of civility of tribe and state do not reach, and therefore where everyone can do as he or she pleases: Throw garbage out the car window, defecate in any convenient patch, drive any speed you desire, and be rude, aggressive and selfish behind the wheel of your car. The moment you are back within the space of the tribe or state, however, this garrish behaviour stops, and you return to civility, politeness and strict order.

I would suggest, therefore, that we approach the discussion of democratisation and civil society in the Arab World in a more realistic and profound manner than merely parroting Western concepts that do not easily fit into our social norms and cultural traditions. I believe, however, that there are parallel Arab concepts that serve the same purpose in our society as democratisation and civil society serve in Western society. It will require much hard work to explore these indigenous Arab traditions and to modernise them in a manner that allows us to develop a concept of public good that goes slightly beyond roadside weather thermometers and advertisements for four different kinds of deep fried chicken.

Our great challenge since the late 19th century remains the same as it has always been: to stop measuring ourselves by the standards of the industrialised Western democracies, and rather to work for a modern Arab society whose decency, productivity and dynamism reflect a combination of our indigenous values and those Western or Eastern or Southern traditions that we can absorb and adapt rationally and meaningfully. Every time I use a filthy public bathroom in the Arab World, I remember this fact, and it gets me through the experience with a renewed commitment to tap our strengths, rather than merely to amplify our dilemmas.

The garbage and the feces we suffer in our public spaces are not only irritants. They are also challenges, and intriguing clues. In between the frenzied rounds of our modern Arab fried chicken jamboree, we would do well to remember this fact and perhaps even to act upon its inherent dare to be better than we are, and as good as we can be, and once were.

The vanishing trick

After its poll disaster, will China decide to teach Hong Kong a lesson or accept the voters' will? Andrew Higgins believes a hardening of attitudes is the likely result

FOR THE first time in weeks, tellers at the Shanghai Bank of Commerce, ticket agents at China Travel Service and staff at dozens of other Beijing-controlled firms in Hong Kong could look out of their windows yesterday without meeting the gaze of solid, sombre-looking men in dark suits. They had been there throughout a campaign for the most democratic election in 154 years of British colonial rule. But Tuesday, before the final results had been counted, they vanished.

The faces, emblazoned across posters and leaflets, belonged to the candidates China hoped would be sitting in the territory's Legislative Council (Legco) when Britain pulls out in approximately 651 days. The posters have been hastily removed. The question now is what else went with them?

After engaging itself, albeit indirectly, in a democratic election campaign like never before, China confronts a humiliating result — a resounding victory for its most vociferous critics. It must decide whether to teach Hong Kong a lesson or to accept the lesson given by Hong Kong voters.

"Given their track record, it seems more likely that they will blame others, not themselves," said Joseph Cheng, a pundit at Hong Kong University. A perilous paradox of last Sunday's poll is that it will probably strengthen the hand of those in Beijing most determined to resist the democratic temptation. A hint of this was the angry response of a leading pro-China candidate, Cheng Kal-nam, to the news that he and fellow members of the Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) had been trounced. "The Hong Kong people will have to pay for this. We warned we would like to have different voices in Legco."

Their strategy of trying to beat the democrats at their own game thrown into disarray, the first response of China's loyal foot-soldiers in Hong Kong was to turn to no less an authority than

Deng Xiaoping, 91-year-old, generally thought to be senile but still an oracle to be consulted in moments of crisis.

"Would it be good for Hong Kong to hold general elections?" an editorial in the Beijing-controlled newspaper Ta Kung Pao quoted Deng asking in 1987. "I don't think so." The problem with direct elections, he explained, was they did not automatically bring victory to the right candidates — "people who love the motherland and love Hong Kong." This important warning, the newspaper seemed to suggest, had been forgotten.

China's standard-bearer, the DAB, won just two seats by direct elections. It picked up another four in so-called "functional constituencies." "It has been completely disgraced and discredited. It had money, organisation and links with the working class. It had everything but credibility," said Professor Cheng.

Meanwhile, the pro-democracy camp led by Martin Lee, branded as a subversive by Beijing, won 16 of 20 directly elected seats and, thanks to gains by allies in various indirect contests, could control half of the 60-seat chamber.

"One can only hope the Chinese government will accept the verdict of the Hong Kong people... The most important message is that Hong Kong does not want a spineless government," said a triumphant Lee at the headquarters of his Democratic Party.

"We are very happy. This certainly quelled all doubts about whether we continue to enjoy the support of the people of Hong Kong." There were no celebrations across Victoria Harbour at China's de facto embassy in the territory, the New China (Xinhua) News Agency. Its only comment was an official dispatch condemning the entire election as "unfair and unreasonable," the result of unacceptable political reforms by Governor Chris Patten.

While senior Xinhua officials had spoken out publicly during the campaign,

they last week retreated into anonymity. An unnamed spokesman denounced the reforms as "unilaterally patched together by the British Hong Kong authorities with a view to staying beyond mid-1997."

While insisting "the main trend" in Hong Kong remains "hope for a smooth transition and love for the motherland," it said China could not possibly let the results stand. Beijing has repeatedly vowed to scrap the political structure set in place by Patten as soon as it takes over at the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997.

During the campaign, however, various pro-China hopefuls suggested that if they were elected in sufficient numbers, Beijing might allow the new legislature to effectively serve out its four year term. For reasons of face, they said, it might declare the old legislature defunct but would appoint all or most of elected members to a new "provisional" chamber.

Such a hope is now doomed. The provisional legislature which Hong Kong hoped would be a carbon copy of the elected legislature is due to be named sometime next year, along with various other "shadow" power centres. By the end of 1996, every level of Hong Kong government will co-exist with a Chinese-named successor.

Patten will be shadowed by the chief-executive designate, the post-colonial governor. It had been hoped the two parallel structures might overlap, involving many of the same people, though of course Patten had no chance of carrying on after 1997. Sunday's election, though, will mean two very different, and therefore rival, powers. The provisional legislature appointed by China will bear little resemblance to the one elected on Sunday: there is no chance of Beijing including Mr. Lee and his many victorious allies.

China blames what now threatens to be a brutal break on Patten, variously pilloried by Beijing polemicists as a whore, a tango-

dancer and a neo-imperialist bent on prolonging British influence. The results of the election will confirm the conspiracy theory popular in China that sees his entire reform project as a plot to booby-trap Hong Kong politics against China.

Indeed, it has a point when it points out that Britain waited until 1991, deep into the twilight of colonial rule, before allowing direct legislative elections. And only in 1994 did Patten push through his own plans to make the Legislative Council an entirely elected body.

Britain allowed Hong Kong to hold its first election in 1888, but it was a contest democracy for the next century. The only posts up for election were seats on the Sanitary Board. Only 167 of the 669 eligible to vote (fluency in English was a primary qualification) thought it worth bothering. No doubt Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, due in London at the end of the month, will remind ministers here of this fact.

But the pressure for more democracy is now coming not from London or Patten but from Hong Kong itself, though not from the businessmen who trek up to the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to nod sagely — and sign contracts.

"I wish those tycoons whom Beijing likes to talk to so much, because they only like to talk to the rich, would speak out for what Hong Kong really wants," said Emily Lau, one of the pro-democracy camp's victors. "It is bad for business, bad for prosperity."

The issue is not whether Hong Kong is pro- or anti-Chinese, she said, but whether its people are allowed to think for themselves. "Most people in Hong Kong are Chinese. They are pro-Chinese. There is nothing wrong with that. What Beijing means by pro-Chinese, though, is the absence of any independent thinking." It is precisely the threat posed by such independence, however, that Deng had in mind when he warned against elections in 1987.

All signs point to peace in Bosnia — or do they?

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

BELGRADE — Aggressive U.S. diplomacy, NATO's military muscle and the Bosnian government's stunning battlefield victories could combine to bring peace to the Balkans after more than four years of war.

But in a region where nothing is predictable and warring sides have rarely kept their pledges, announcing a swift end to the fighting in Bosnia and Croatia is an optimistic gamble.

Following up on their Sept. 8 agreement to split Bosnia about 50-50 between the rebel Serbs and the Muslim-Croat Federation, the foreign ministers of Serb-led Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia are to meet in New York on Tuesday to focus on details that have stymied all previous peace attempts.

Sources close to U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke said the main topics during the meeting, chaired by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, will be a ceasefire, the maps of division and constitutional issues.

Thanks to Mr. Holbrooke's shuttle diplomacy between the warring sides and NATO airstrikes on Serb positions "there is now a real chance for peace in Bosnia," President Bill Clinton said Saturday. "We must seize it."

But in staking out their positions in recent days, the warring sides have shown how difficult achieving peace may be.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government demands full

control of Serb-besieged Sarajevo and territory that would link the capital with Gorazde, the last remaining government-held enclave in eastern Bosnia. They also want Banja Luka, the largest Serb-held town in Bosnia, to be demilitarised. Bosnian Serb leaders insist on the return of land in central and northwestern Bosnia that was retaken from them by government and Croat forces. That offensive reduced Serb holdings from two-thirds of Bosnia to roughly the 49 per cent the rebels would get in any peace settlement.

The Serbs also want their land within Bosnia to be virtually an independent country. The Bosnian government and Mr. Holbrooke want to retain some central state structure common to both halves of Bosnia.

Differences also remain within the Croat-Muslim alliance. Many of the recent military gains were made by Croatian forces, who showed little enthusiasm for sharing territory with the Bosnian government. Meanwhile, has always feared being squeezed out by Serbs and Croats.

It is not clear how much the Muslim-Croat victories and massive NATO airstrikes on Serb positions have helped the peace process.

Some analysts say that the victories will make agreement on borders that much simpler. But others fear they may prompt the Croat-Muslim alliance to continue the offensive or demand more territory than the U.S. plan offers.

LETTERS

Dangerous construction

To the Editor:

AS SOMEBODY who has spent many years in the oil-rich countries of the Arab World, I feel that my impressions of Jordan formed during my holiday here may be of interest.

I do not need to enshrine over Jordan's natural and historical splendours. What has really impressed me is the friendliness of the people, particularly in view of Western policies in the Middle East, and their industriousness.

Religion is obviously important to the community: there is an atmosphere of decency, and sobriety. Yet tolerance is displayed towards decent people of other faiths and cultures.

May I voice my concern over one point? The beautiful area around Ajlun is a relatively small area of forests and greenery, but construction is taking place there at a very rapid rate. I do hope that measures have been taken to prevent the destruction of this region's natural heritage.

Nicholas Baykor
Britain

King: Jordan will continue its endeavours to create a model of social, economic and political stability

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the address which His Majesty King Hussein gave to the European Parliament in Strasbourg Monday.

Mr. President of the European Parliament, Mr. President of the Council, Mr. President of the Commission, Distinguished members of parliament,

IT IS once again both a privilege and a pleasure to address the Parliament of Europe. It offers me the occasion to share my thoughts with you on relations between Europe and my country, about what they have been in the past and what we hope they will become in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my good friend, Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the European Parliament, for inviting me to address this distinguished body, and for his leadership and contribution to Euro-Mediterranean understanding.

Much has changed in the Middle East. On balance, the changes have been positive; although the consequences of past events are still with us, there are new factors of maturity, realism, determination and vision which brighten our horizons.

It is perhaps too early to assess the impact of Europe on our region in the 20th century. We are still experiencing the consequences of two devastating European wars and their repercussions on our lives. The major consequence of the World War I was a new map of our region drawn up by the victors. This map drew frontiers where there were none before; established a number of new states and disrupted patterns of economic, social and family life, which had formed through four centuries of Ottoman rule.

In our case, the dislocation of our former status

took the form of a separation between the two sides of the River Jordan, which geographically and historically formed the Holy Land, and its political separation from its northern extensions to Lebanon and Syria, was carried one step further with the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Into the former cohesion of our social, economic and cultural life was introduced a new element. Growing tensions between the incoming settlers and the indigenous population led to the mass displacement of the Palestinian people and the festering of political and ideological extremism which has plagued the entire Middle East for decades.

My grandfather, King Abdullah and my great uncle King Faisal of Syria, and later Iraq, had hoped that the aspirations of the Arab inhabitants of the lands liberated during the Great Arab Revolt of 1916, and of the Jewish settlers in Palestine, might be compatible, provided certain conditions could be satisfied.

This was not to be: Rivalries and suspicions between the European players in our region, and the catastrophic situation of the Jews of Europe combined to end the dream of my forefathers. The unity of the Arab lands was frustrated and the Jewish state of Israel was born in violence.

This was the situation which I inherited when I acceded to the Throne of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and which has challenged us for more than 40 years. It was clear to me that my duty was to exert every possible effort to spare my people the suffering and cruelty of war and to bequeath them a legacy

of peace. On Oct. 26, 1994, when Jordan and Israel signed their peace treaty, we did not make peace only with Israel; we also made it with ourselves, confident in our belief that this was the only way we could break out of the cycle of violence which has devastated our lands and our peoples.

Our vision and purpose in making peace with Israel was not just to end the state of war. The equation of "no war and no peace," which had defined the relations of Jordan and other Arab states with Israel for 25 years, had proved futile.

We decided to make a warm peace with Israel — a peace which makes it possible for our two peoples to tear down the fears which separated them for too long; to do business; to make friends with each other if they wish; to benefit from what each has to offer; and to work together to create a better life for themselves and for all those who live in the same region and share the same hopes.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty marked the end of one period in our history, and the dawning of another. It is the first step towards the restoration of harmony in the Holy Land, which God ordained, but which man disrupted. The benefits to both parties are equally beneficial: Jordan, which had been virtually landlocked, now, once again, has access to the Mediterranean; Israel now, can also look beyond the previous confines to live in a region of peace.

But in making peace with Israel, and in determining to live with Israel on terms of mutual trust, security and cooperation, we did not forget or neglect the other vital component of the Holy Land: that of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights on their own land.

We believe that the Palestinian people have the right, in this new era of peace, to enjoy the same security and the same hoped-for, prosperity on their own land. We will

continue to support them, as we have through all these years, in all their legitimate goals, and in all their legitimate activities. The realisation of the Palestinians' rights to self-determination, to return or compensation, and to a decent life are legitimate aims. We share with them many other concerns such as access to water, the environment, the settlement of the problem of their refugees and displaced populations; and we share with them, and not only with them, our concern for the future of holy Jerusalem.

For members of the three Abrahamic faiths on every continent, the old city of Jerusalem is the goal of pilgrimage and the pole of prayer. Mosques, churches and temples each bear witness to the central place of the Holy City in the thoughts and visions of believers around the world.

It has always been our hope that holy Jerusalem will not be a cause for conflict, but a platform for reconciliation. Its history should never again be "liberation" for some, and "loss" for others. Its rightful place in history is where the three faiths — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — converge.

I do not believe that the problem of Jerusalem presents an insurmountable difficulty. The greater city of Jerusalem can be a shining symbol and the essence of peace forever between Palestinians and Israelis as well as all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is, we hope, a historic step in the construction of a new era of peace in the Middle East. Our peace with Israel is comprehensive insofar as it removes all subjects of contention between us. Yet, to be comprehensive on the scale of the whole region, there is still a way to go. Peace is not just the signing of treaties. The signa-

tures must have a genuine commitment to all that peace implies: the free movement of people, goods and ideas across frontiers, the shared commitment to resolve common problems, and to respect one another's interests.

There must be a shared consensus of common values, respect for human rights and basic freedoms, equality between all citizens, and, above all, the right of children to food, clothing, education and freedom from fear.

What is the real purpose of peace? In our view, it is to promote the security and the prosperity of peoples. Without security, there can be no assured prosperity; and without prosperity, there can be no assured security. In the modern history of the Middle East, there have been many attempts to erect security systems and arrangements, either between external powers and regional states, or between regional states themselves. None of these arrangements were effective in preventing wars and conflicts in the Middle East.

In that nightmare scenario between the invasion of Kuwait and the end of the war in the Gulf, I did my best to convince the international community to help us to contain and solve the problem within an Arab context. I was not successful, and the sequence of events before, during, and after the war confirmed my worst fears. The security of the supply of oil was, at least temporarily, assured; but the security of the region was seriously jeopardised. The destabilisation of Iraq does not contribute to the stability, security or peace in the Middle East; on the contrary, it poses a serious threat to all.

We cannot look with indifference as the plight of the people of Iraq grows more and more tragic with every renewal of the Security Council's imposition of sanctions. As their misery increases, I cannot, nor can any Jordanian or other

Arab family, sleep comfortably in our beds with the spectre of the sick and hungry children of Iraq before our eyes.

I wish to state, categorically, against all rumours, fears and speculation that, as a Hashemite, I personally have no ambition in Iraq. Yet, I can no longer turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the anguish and needs of the people of Iraq. They have been imprisoned for years by an international embargo and have endured for far too long the absence of democracy, pluralism and human rights.

All the Iraqi people, all the Arab states, together with the international community, must join together to bring an end to all the causes of Iraqi suffering and denial, both internally and externally.

I stand firmly for the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. I would encourage and support an immediate dialogue between the credible representatives of the three major elements that comprise the people of Iraq, namely the Sunni and Shi'ite Arabs, and the Kurds, to achieve a national reconciliation. This would remove the fears and suspicions which have shattered their relations and threatened their future. I would offer them all my support, and I implore them to engage in a serious dialogue to formulate a new constitution defining their respective aspirations and rights, within the context of their one country of Iraq, based on democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since 1948, Jordan has had to assume extraordinary burdens such as three sudden and massive waves of refugees, and the repeated disruption of our economy. These have severely strained our limited financial, social and institutional resources.

In the last quarter of 1995, an opportunity will be available to the govern-

ments and institutions of Europe to take part in the construction of a new Middle East. The Middle East and North Africa summit, to be held in Amman on Oct. 29 this year, will attempt to translate into concrete economic terms some of the ideas and aspirations of the Casablanca economic summit, which preceded it last year.

A further "window of opportunity" will be the Barcelona conference scheduled for November of this year, the main theme of which will be a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. We hope that the Barcelona conference, which Jordan will attend, will pay special attention to the countries of the eastern Mediterranean. This area is the natural bridge between Europe and the Middle East. The conference can open a door for Europe into a region of vast natural resources and important markets; and it can open a window for our region onto the economic and financial landscape of Europe.

The choice of Amman for the second Middle East and North Africa summit reflects, I believe, a growing consensus among international financial institutions and business corporations that Jordan now offers a favourable location and climate for public funding and private investment in projects on both the Jordanian and the regional scene.

Jordan's treaty of peace with Israel paves the way for the emergence of a new and potentially powerful economic bloc, which would include Palestine and Egypt. Projects involving the cooperation of these four entities will be presented at the Amman summit. We hope that these will ultimately provide viable examples for other Middle East countries of the benefits of cooperative and integrated development and reaping the tangible rewards of peace. Such a bloc would provide markets, manpower and technological resources which would attract not only

European, American and Asian investment, but also some of the Arab capital, private and public, which now finds havens outside the region.

Jordan will continue its endeavour to create a model of social, political and economic stability which, we hope, will act as a positive example.

The Jordanian National Charter, ratified in 1991, reflects a Jordanian consensus for democracy, pluralism, basic freedoms, gender equity, human rights, and a free market economy. Since the adoption of the National Charter, successive Jordanian governments have sought to implement its tenets into the daily life of our people.

We believe that we have the ability, the will and the experience to generate from our own resources a momentum which will transform a developing country into a developed one and to set a dynamic example in our region. The support and the investments we seek are the sparks needed to fuel the great potential of our own enthusiasm, and our own energies; the great human potential of our region.

Europe and our region are extensions of one another. We invite you to join us to further and deepen the ancient bonds between us, and together to build the better world we seek.

As I leave you today, my friends, I am happy to announce that I am heading to the United States, at the invitation of President Clinton, to attend the ratification of yet another agreement between the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the prime minister of Israel. It is truly another important breakthrough on the road to a comprehensive Middle East peace — the result of negotiations and commitment to the cause of peace and we praise the efforts of all who contributed to its achievement.

Thank you and God bless your worthy endeavours.

Arafat briefs Regent on autonomy accord

(Continued from page 1)

would continue to remain as their depth and they could count on Jordan's support," he said.

"We stand by the Palestinian brothers and will offer them all help within our means," he said, praising Mr. Arafat "for shouldering heavy responsibilities."

"May God help you under this difficult circumstance," the Regent told Mr. Arafat.

Referring to the expected PNA takeover of most of the West Bank under Sunday's self-rule accord, Mr. Arafat said: "We have inherited a totally devastated nation."

"We have to start from zero and this entails heavy responsibilities," he said, calling on Arab and friendly countries to help the PNA "shoulder these heavy responsibilities."

The difficulties facing the Palestinians were reflected in some of the statistics Mr. Arafat provided. He said water shortage was very acute in Gaza, 65 students were crammed into each class, schools were running three shifts to meet the demand and "half a bed" was available for every 1,000 Palestinians in hospitals. These were only few examples of the "problems of the Palestinian people who have been suffering 28 years of occupation," Mr. Arafat said.

"There is no doubt that you realise the difficult situation facing the Palestinians," he told the Regent.

However, he said, "Jordanians and Palestinians are twins and their high morale will enable the PNA to overcome the hardships."

The Regent called for close focus on coordination in daily issues crossings between Jordan and the Palestinian territories and trade between the two sides.

Mr. Arafat said he called the King whenever the negotiations noted that while the Israeli negotiations had "friends cooperating with them," the Palestinians were helped by their Arab brethren.

He said the Palestinians were able to participate in the peace process only after they were allowed to be part of the Jordanian delegation at the Madrid conference. This Jordanian support was very important for the Palestinians, he said, adding that the Palestinians realised from the beginning that any solution will be in phases.

Noting that the PNA was now

in the second phase of the declaration of independence signed by the PLO and Israel in September 1993, he said: "We still have a lot to do and we look forward to our brethren to achieve this, especially our twin country, Jordan, because we need their assistance. We should also not forget that a peaceful solution in the region does not lie in having peace only with the Jordanians, Palestinians and Egyptians, but also with the Syrians and Lebanese."

Mr. Arafat said although it was agreed in the declaration of principles that the question of Jerusalem was left to "final status" of negotiations, Israel was introducing demographic changes to the city. He said the Arab and Islamic nations as well as Christians all over the world should counter the Israeli efforts.

Following is partial transcript of the interview in a question and answer form:

Q: "With the PNA's initialing the second phase of the self-rule agreement, how do you see the Palestinian future?"

Mr. Arafat: First the agreement was basically signed between the PLO and the Israeli government. The PNA is part of the PLO, but the agreement was signed by the PLO. No doubt, this signing was supposed to take place three months after the Cairo agreement last year. But after 14 months of continued delay I would frankly like to say, if His Royal Highness Prince Hassan would allow me, that we were told that there are no sacred dates on the one hand and that we have no funds on the other.

"This prompted me to go to the donors meeting in Brussels and tell them this, and that they had promised us money and ask them to honour their pledges. Regarding the latest violence, I would like to say frankly before everybody that these operations were coordinated between extremists here and there. We have documents but we cannot publicise them now, but we have them, and we have confessions by some concerning, for example, the Beit Lod operation. I discussed the operation with His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak and told Yitzhak Rabin that some Israeli elements are involved in such operations and asked him why should he only blame the PNA."

"I presented these documents to His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak, and I stress that extremists here and there are seeking to destroy the peace process."

"Again I say that we find difficulty in implementing previous agreements and will find difficulty in implementing what we have reached at the current stage. There is trouble, there is effort and there is hardwork in this grand jihad."

Q: "Your Highness, in your first meeting at the White House in 1993 with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, you said that the meeting was not a photo opportunity but was a means to reach comprehensive and just peace in the region and removing disparities among the peoples of the region. Did what you said then come true with the signing of the Tabat agreement and other agreements in the peace process?"

Prince Hassan: "I think it is useful to remind that the aforementioned meeting followed the Palestinian initiative in Oslo and during the meeting known as the donors meeting where the world countries sought means to develop and rehabilitate the region's economies. When I mention economy of course it refers to the humanitarian dimension. What President Arafat said now reminds us that international commitments towards the peace process should be honoured. I have great hopes to see during the signing ceremony at the White House a new commitment towards cooperation in security in the wider sense of the concept."

"Naturally, security today does not only mean arms and ammunition. But it mainly relies on the people's feeling of change in their lives. The issue of withdrawal from a group of cities and villages and the ecstasy of freedom should be enhanced by making the people confident that the future is more promising than the past. This is what this makes us agree to have bilateral coordination, especially after giving our brethren, the Palestinian negotiators, some rest — may God help them — and we hope they would give us some of the precious time, especially at the Amman economic summit."

"We should grasp this opportunity to address the world and talk about the Jordanian and Palestinian people's needs and ability to change reality to the better, God willing, if we were given the chance."

Mr. Arafat: "This conference in this new world order is very important, not only for one or two countries, but for the whole

region, and for the strategic relationship and links between this region and the whole world, which imposes additional burdens on all parties."

Prince Hassan: "God willing, we will make the order together in a manner conforming to and serving our Arab, Jordanian, Palestinian and international goals. But our hopes are great, and, by Abu Ammar's care and the cooperation of his assisting team, more will be achieved in bilateral coordination. Abu Ammar referred to the twins and twinning, and both terms are right.... We hope that Abu Ammar is the twin."

Q: "Your Royal Highness, the world and the region's people are viewing the Amman economic summit as a turning point in building the age of peace and economy of peace. How do you Royal Highness view the summit?"

Prince Hassan: "Regarding the summit, it is not a Jordanian summit. Jordan is hosting it and we are honoured to have the world's economic blocs meeting on Jordanian soil. But I am really hopeful that this summit will turn into another step pushing towards rehabilitating the region's economies on the basis of social justice, and justice and integrity in major projects. Naturally, the summit is a continuation of what was started at

the Casablanca summit. But when we talk about the participation of the people in this region of the world, we must make new structures of stability. I think the opportunity lies in addressing the world through projects and through the establishment of new financial means and institutions. This is all unprecedented in the history of our region. We are hopeful that these chances will be exploited as much as possible in the interest of the Arab people everywhere and in the interest of the region's people."

Mr. Arafat: "If you allow me, Your Royal Highness, we should not waste the opportunities offered by the Amman meeting. We face a new world order which His Royal Highness named the new feudal order. The balance of power in the world has changed after the demise of the Soviet Union as the biggest nuclear power."

"We should know that our future battles are economic and are really difficult. Could we really face them or not? Or should we be tools serving others? This is our challenge and thus this is a responsibility for this King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Hassan."

Samir Barhoum contributed to this report

Jordanian feelings mixed towards accord

(Continued from page 1)

they say," said the politician, citing as evidence Israeli measures that contain Palestinians in their "Bundestans," while at the same time "building the infrastructure that links Israeli settlements to one another through roads, highways...."

This "delinking of Palestinians through establishing physical obstructions, making human contact among Palestinians themselves very difficult, is parallel to their measures of strengthening and consolidating their settlements to one another through roads, highways...."

"This 'plan' not only restricts the movement of Palestinians within the West Bank, but also restricts their contact with their neighbours like Jordan," said the politician.

Noting that Israeli elections are approaching, the politician said that the three conditions Mr. Rabin has spelled out are "part and parcel of the Labour party's election campaign," but that "if one really believes in the dynamism of peace, the agreement definitely builds the momentum of establishing a Palestinian state despite the real physical obstacles on the ground."

Notwithstanding the negative aspects of the accord, some analysts have pointed out that the Palestinians had limited choices but to go ahead with the agreement, especially under the present "difficult circumstances when they are being expelled from Libya, turned away from Lebanon, and receiving close to no support at all from other Arabs," in the words of one seasoned analyst.

"Any progress in the direction of establishing a Palestinian state is something they are looking forward to and will use to the best of their abilities," he said. What little optimism "moderate" politicians had to offer was, however, countered by the outright rejection of the new agreement, which peace opponents described as "Oslo number two."

"It's not a step forward, it's ten steps back," said lawyer Ibrahim Baker, adding that it only ensures an Israeli foothold in the West Bank.

"Hebron is no more an Arab town and the Ibrahim Mosque is no more a mosque... the deal does not secure the Palestinians' water rights nor control over their land," Mr. Baker said in reflecting Palestinians' rejection of the terms the two sides have

reached regarding Hebron, which was a sticking point in their negotiations.

According to the agreement, which was initiated Sunday and will be signed at the White House on Thursday, Israel will guard Jewish settlers and their movements and maintain overall responsibility for their safety. Redeployment will be completed no later than six months after the signing of the agreement. Israel will also keep control over the Ibrahim Mosque.

As for water, the accord stipulates that the Palestinian share of water will be increased by 28 million cubic metres. A joint water committee will manage resources and prevent uncontrolled drilling.

"The water resources are under the control of Israelis... the aquifers are under their control," Mr. Baker said.

Echoing Mr. Baker's condemnation of the accord, Islamist Deputy Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times that the agreement was "a new disappointment... which kept 70 per cent of the Palestinian land under the control of Israel." It also introduced a new phenomenon of keeping settlers and Israeli forces inside Hebron, thus establishing a

dangerous precedent that could be followed in other cases like Jerusalem or other West Bank cities."

According to the agreement, Israel will withdraw troops from Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Tulkarim, Jenin and Qalqilya and redeploy in Hebron. Israeli forces will also pull out of 450 West Bank villages. Israel, however, will retain overall responsibility for external security, Israelis and settlements across the West Bank. The task of "combating extremism" in those areas lies with Israel.

Mr. Mansour also criticised Israel's policy towards "labelling Palestinian prisoners and classifying them into categories to suit its own purposes," which he said was a policy towards keeping them imprisoned.

According to the agreement, Israel will free Palestinian prisoners in three stages — upon the signing of the accord, on the eve of the elections and once more "according to principles which will be established separately." The "principles" are related to the prisoners' ages, sentences and the time they have served as well as their alleged offences.

Agreement draws mixed reaction

(Continued from page 1)

lands is open to more explosions," the official Tishreen daily said.

Iran said the deal would strengthen Palestinian opposition.

"The accords... will not have any positive effect on achieving the rights of the Palestinians, except that they will make the Palestinian struggle (against the deal) more coordinated," Tehran Radio said in a commentary.

The official Libyan news agency JANA described the deal as "another step towards making more concessions to the enemies of the Arab Nation and compromise on the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, down the paths of illusions of so-called peace."

Leaders of Arab countries that had made peace with Israel praised the accord as a major breakthrough.

"We hope this milestone in political achievement will be a further reason to make better use of the international perception for rehabilitating the Middle East," Crown Prince Hassan told reporters after talks with Mr. Arafat in Amman.

"What they have achieved I consider a success for Chairman Arafat and his delegation. We hope that the implementation will be up to the level of what was agreed," Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said after talks with the PLO leader on Sunday night.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Sunday: "What Israelis and Palestinians have achieved is a remarkable tribute to their courage and determination and to the power of direct negotiations to resolve extremely complex problems."

World Bank sees poor hurt by budget cutters

WASHINGTON (R) — Those least able to fend for themselves would be hit hardest by severe cutbacks in World Bank funding set aside for the very poorest countries, the bank said Sunday.

The World Bank is in tough negotiations to replenish the coffers of the International Development Association (IDA), its arm that provides essentially interest-free credit to countries going through very difficult times.

Looking for ways to come to grips with the U.S. budget deficit, Congress has warned that new funding for IDA would be hard to come by and has even proposed reducing and stretching out existing commitments.

In a briefing for reporters on its annual report, bank officials said a big cutback in money for IDA would make it impossible to maintain even a basic attack on global poverty.

"To the 1.2 billion people in the world who live on less than a \$1 a day such an outcome would be devastat-

ing," bank spokesman Tim Cullen told reporters.

The United States is not expected to meet its full commitment to IDA, probably falling far short of its \$3.75 billion pledge for the three years ending June 30, 1996.

This and critical statements from a tight-fisted Congress has cast a fall over negotiations for the next three-year replenishment. It's far certain whether other donors, many also facing tight budgets, will make up for U.S. cuts.

"Proposals in Congress to reduce and stretch out the third tranche of the U.S. contribution to IDA 10, do not augur well for IDA 11, which is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 1996," Mr. Cullen told reporters.

At the same time, bank officials concede they are discussing new ways to help poor countries burdened with so much debt that it's unlikely they can ever pay it back.

One idea put forward by bank staff is a kind of arm's-length trust fund that could help strapped countries make

payments to multilateral lending institutions like the bank.

This is delicate ground for the bank, which borrows money in the financial markets to pay for its loans and is highly protective of its excellent debt rating.

Such a fund, which could get seed money from the bank, would kick in when countries had reached accord with the Paris Club on official debt and the London Club on commercial debt.

But critics believe a facility of this sort could further undermine the commitment by countries to fund IDA.

Underscoring the diverse role of the bank in the developing world, the annual report said its assistance ranged from helping Mexico cool its peso crisis to providing money to fight the disease of AIDS.

It stressed that it was trying to make certain that its loans to countries paid off, more closely monitoring projects to ensure they achieve their objectives.

Libya needs foreign capital to revive economy — study

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Libya needs to attract foreign capital to revive its economy which has been hurt by a decline in oil prices and production, according to an official Arab League report.

Foreign investments in sanctions-hit Libya are still concentrated in the energy sector although it was among the first Arab countries to enact investment laws, the Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said.

"Given its large oil and gas resources, Libya had apparently not seen the need for foreign investment in the past," the Kuwait-based group said in its 1994 report on Arab investment and economic developments.

"But the situation has now changed following the adoption of new economic policies in Libya and the sharp fluctuations in crude prices. There is a general feeling about the importance of

attracting foreign capital," the report pointed out.

Libya produces around 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d) under an OPEC output quota agreement.

Lack of investment has sharply depressed its oil production capacity although it has more than 50 billion barrels of crude reserves.

Production peaked to 3.3 million b/d in 1970 before it started to decline to reach 2.6 million b/d in 1977 and a record low of 937,000 b/d in 1987.

Like other key oil producers, Libya has announced plans to revive its capacity but they have been blocked by U.N. sanctions imposed more than three years ago in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing.

Lower production and prices have sharply pushed down Libya's earnings, slowed its economy and created persistent deficits to its budgets.

ACIG figures showed the shortfall hit a record of \$4.8 billion in 1986, when crude prices plunged below \$10 a barrel due to a production war among key oil states.

It was slashed to \$886 million in 1990 after oil prices rocketed to around \$40 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

ACIG, a key Arab League institution, said it had helped Libya prepare a new investment law, which was supposed to be announced in late 1994. It did not say why it had been delayed.

"The new law identified fields of foreign investments, priorities for such investments and rules on foreign partnership. It also encourages investment in export sectors and facilitates legal, administrative and financial procedures for attracting investment and transfer of revenue generated from such investment," the report concluded.

Asia-Pacific economies warned of oil crunch

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Booming Asian economies were warned by a senior OPEC official that their growth could be cut short by a potential oil squeeze caused by the spread of energy taxes.

Rilwanu Lukman, secretary-general of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), also voiced concern that OPEC was losing market share to non-OPEC suppliers as demand increased.

"OPEC is particularly concerned about these issues of taxation and market share, and it believes that our concern should be shared by other producers and consumers," Mr. Lukman told the 11th Asia-Pacific Petroleum Conference.

OPEC has about three-quarters of the world's oil reserves and would be an important source of the extra oil that will be required in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere.

But if non-OPEC producers did not cut back supplies, and if industrialised countries did not adopt "fair and sensible" tax policies, OPEC would have few resources and incentives to develop the reserves, Mr. Lukman said.

"Without OPEC oil, the energy growth, and therefore the economic growth of Asian countries may be adversely affected," the Nigerian official warned the region's premier oil industry gathering.

OPEC groups Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Oil demand in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region, excluding Japan, is projected to rise by about five per cent a year from 1995 to 2010. Net oil imports are expected to exceed 12 million barrels per day (b/d) by 2010, more than a third higher than in 1993.

At present, Asia accounts for 25 per cent of world demand, but only 10 per cent of supply, making it vulnerable to higher prices and potential shortages.

Indonesian delegate Subroto, a former OPEC secretary-general, said that despite moves to open up the oil sector to exploration by private prospectors to raise production, Asia would remain a net importer.

"There will undoubtedly be more oil discovered in the region. But the region will always be deficient and rely on imports," Dr. Subroto said.

Mr. Lukman said oil taxes were keeping crude oil prices lower than they should be and leaving little incentive for oil producers to fund a rise in production capacity.

"Taxes are squeezing an economic rent out of oil which rightly belongs to the oil producers who are doing all of the work and taking all of the risk," he said.

Many industrial countries have raised taxes to an extent where levies represented up to 80 per cent of the consumer price per barrel of refined oil, he said.

Such tax policies, which industrial countries were now trying to "export" to make their over-regulated industries more competitive, are promoted on environmental grounds as well as a budget-balancing method, Mr. Lukman said.

"How can we be expected to invest the billions of dollars required to meet the expected growth of demand in Asia, if prices and demand are likely to be distorted in an uncertain way by new and increasing taxes?" he asked.

"The answer is that we cannot. The medium-to-long-term result will be shortages, price volatility and potential oil shocks," he said.

OPEC has kept production stable at 24.52 million b/d since September 1993, and demand in 1996 is forecast to fall below its output due to increasing non-OPEC production.

EU single currency faces tough public acceptance

BRUSSELS (R) — Selling a single European currency to a sceptical public may be one of the biggest hurdles politicians face.

The latest row over European monetary union, highlighted by Germany's wish to ensure lasting budget restraint, has at its core a growing anxiety over the German public's reluctance to part with the trustworthy mark.

But the Germans are not alone in their doubts of a still unnamed future currency. The contentious issue of monetary union is near the top of the political agenda in numerous EU states where public opinion poses a huge obstacle.

In Sweden, for example, there has been talk of possibly holding referendum on monetary union, a strategy that is directly at odds with the Maastricht treaty.

Swedish Finance Minister Goran Persson said recently that "it is really up to us how we decide about the third stage (of monetary union)."

Meanwhile, anti-EU sentiment is running at a fever pitch in Britain. Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said this week that it is clear that full monetary union may

not be sensible option for all members.

A recent survey Eurobarometer, an EU research group, puts the issue in perspective by citing six member states where public sentiment towards a single currency is negative.

Aside from Germany, the residents of Britain, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Denmark are simply unwilling to abandon their national currencies.

In Britain 38 per cent of the public is in favour of a single currency by 1999 while 55 per cent are against. Germany shows a similar support level at 38 per cent with 50 per cent casting a no vote and in Denmark the figures are 30 and 66 per cent.

Among some of the EU's newer entrants hostility towards a new currency is also widespread.

The citizens of Austria show a paltry 35 per cent in favour of abandoning the shilling with 51 per cent against. Finland also registers a heavy no vote at 59 per cent, while the Swedes express support at 32 per cent and disfavour at 57 per cent.

One analyst responsible for collecting and interpreting

the results says the EU newcomers need time to adjust to their membership requirements.

"Many new countries need a couple of years to adjust themselves to the fact that neither heaven or hell has arrived," he said.

But when one takes a longer view and asks the naysayers whether they think a single currency will be a reality for their children, the answer is a resounding yes.

For example, 65 per cent of Germans say they expect a new currency by the year 2010 followed closely by the Danes at 63 per cent.

Even for some of the most rock-hard Eurosceptics the future is unambiguously clear.

A solid 66 per cent of Britons anticipate that they will eventually hand over their banknotes for a new currency.

For the 15 member states as a group a similar 66 per cent say monetary union will become reality by 2010.

In light of these results experts generally agree that EU leaders may need to step up their sales campaign if a new currency is to become reality by 1999.

Arab Gulf '95 oil income seen at 10-year high

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An improvement in crude prices will likely boost the 1995 oil income of six Arab Gulf states to its highest level in nearly a decade, according to a United Arab Emirates (UAE) economist.

Oil export earnings by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are projected to grow by around 14 per cent to \$80 billion in 1995 from nearly \$70 billion in 1994, Mohammad Al Asumi, chief economist at the state-controlled Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB), said in a lecture.

He said he based his assumption on an increase in oil prices of around 13 per cent this year over 1994 and a higher price average through 1995.

Oil prices averaged around \$15.5 in 1994, their lowest level in five years. But they have recovered to between \$16 and \$17 this year.

Oil sales provide the bulk

of the revenues of GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — which produce nearly one fifth of the world's total crude supplies.

GCC oil revenues stood at around \$73 billion in 1993 and \$72 billion in 1992. They were as low as \$62 billion in 1991 and \$67 billion in 1990 due to disruption of Kuwait's supplies during the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Asumi said higher income was expected to wipe out the budget deficit in some GCC states and slash it in other members.

"The combined GCC budget deficit will be lower than projected this year because of the improvement in oil prices," he said.

The GCC deficit was projected at around \$9.6 billion in 1993, far lower than the 1994 shortfall of nearly \$17 billion and the record deficit

of around \$55 billion in 1991. The decline came after member states, mainly Saudi Arabia, slashed expenditure.

Mr. Asumi said GCC oil reserves of around 460 billion barrels, which constitute 45 per cent of the world's proven crude reserves, could theoretically last more than 100 years at the present production level of 13 million barrels per day.

"But this assumption is wrong because the GCC countries are not expected to maintain the same output level in future," he said.

"They will have to raise production to face growing world demand. Given projections about global consumption in future, the correct assumption is that GCC oil reserves will last only 50 years."

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

1 Ghost

6 Bangladesh capital

11 Noah's son

14 Abates

15 Law partner?

16 Miss leader?

17 Small sum

19 Shad product

20 Earth tone

21 "As I was going to St. ..."

22 In a dither

24 Capt. Hook's sidekick

25 On top

27 Tropical cove

30 Stammer and fume

33 Matinee figures

34 Cottontail kin

35 "Norma —"

36 State of mind

37 Dependable

38 Long, detailed report

39 Tax org.

40 Place for locks

41 Foretold

42 Adolescent

44 Napa Valley sight

45 In a rut

46 Catch a fly ball

47 Underwater apparatus

49 Merino mamas

50 Turkey mister

53 Highland hat

54 Kind of prank

58 Cleopatra's viper

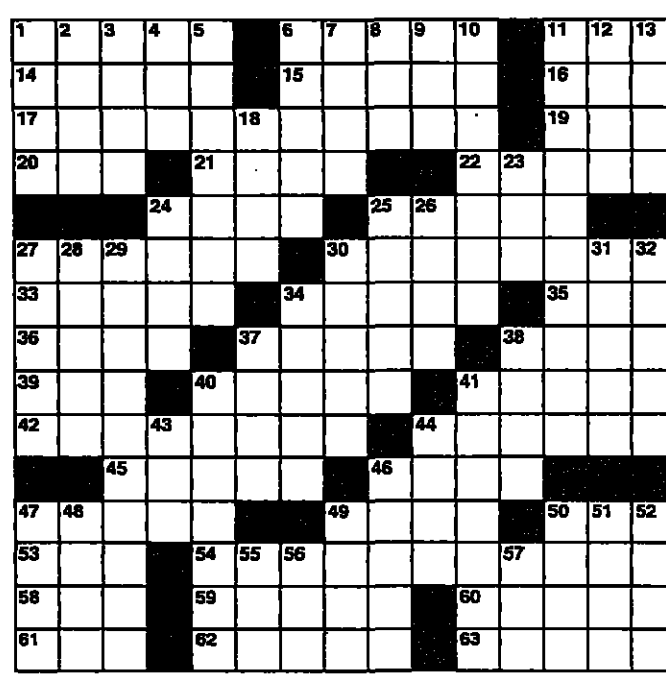
59 Missed the mark

60 Down producer

61 I agree

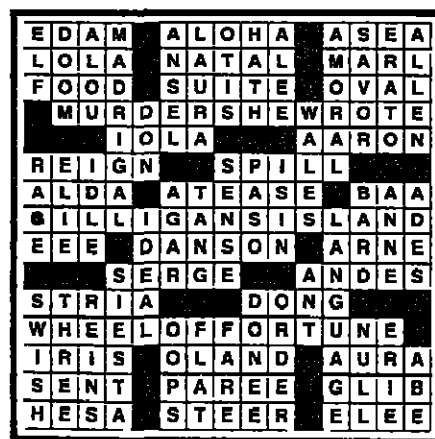
62 Housing document

63 Tractor man



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



DOWN

1 Religious group

2 Tittering sound

3 A — apple

4 Winter mo.

5 Native Alaskans

6 Gift recipient

7 Barks by Sandy

8 Alphabet trio

9 So-so mark

10 Strenuous

11 Shrewd

12 Hand lotion

13 Track contest

14 Neck and neck

15 Beetle Bailey's rank: abbr.

16 Auctioneer's cry

17 Time for showers

18 Ran, as dye

19 It may be the sky

20 Be wild about

21 Sign of fright

22 Dieter's dish

23 Champing at the bit

24 Prepared

25 Sharpened

26 Cooking herb

27 Melody

28 Candy

41 Bigoted: var.

42 San Francisco's — Hill

43 Food for Miss Muffet

44 Nobel or Lind

45 Corset feature

46 Lawyer's concern

47 — out (barely gets by)

48 — over (assist)

49 Lulu

50 That, and no more

51 Miner's bounty

52 Gun lobby gp.

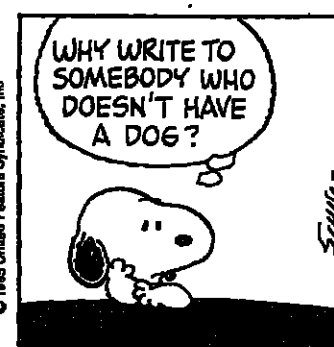
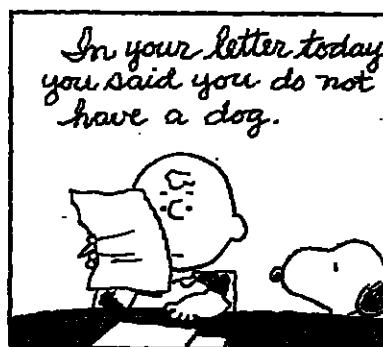
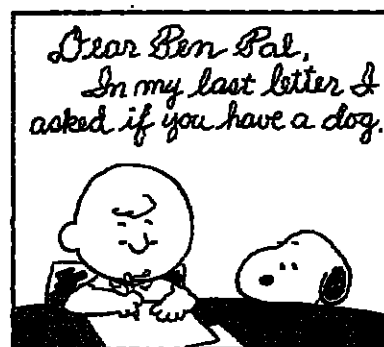
53 Hurry along

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

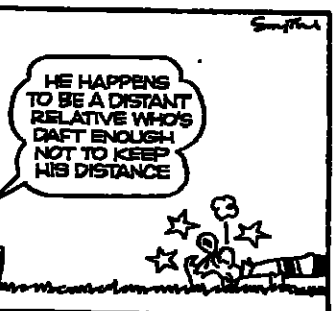
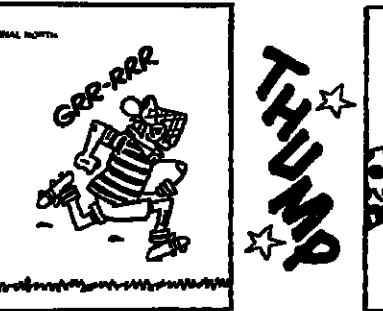


"Thank you for calling Marriage Counseling Services. If your wife is a slob, press 1. If your husband is a grouch, press 2...."

Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your home and family and today plan how to have everything more comfortable and ideal there.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get those arrangements working which can improve your station in life. Take time to visit with friends who can help you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a fine day to carry on with some fine plan which can make you far more prosperous. Avoid one who is a boring pessimist.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your personal aims can be reached very easily today, so apply yourself seriously to them and you can be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have a noble nature and this day to impress others favourably and get much completed. Someone is setting a trap for you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get the expert advice you need so that you can gain your finest ambitions. Be willing to help one who needs your assistance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to tie up loose ends of any business deals which are important to you. Show a bigwig you can be relied upon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may get news from out of town which can help you to get a new perspective. An older individual could give you needed data.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Complete those arrangements concerning business which will get you the right results. Bills are overdue, so pay them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use care in dealing with a partner today who is sensitive and then you can come to a fine agreement.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get right at that pile of work today and you soon make a big dent in it and then can gain benefits from it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are in the mood for fun and should stick to the proven and be with congenials. Finish a project you've been working on.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Economies

unch

only 10 per cent of making it vulnerable to price and potential...
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...But the region...
...be deficient and...
...points." Dr. Sub...

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business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Government offers to sell its shares in three big companies

THE JORDAN Investment Corporation, the investment arm of the government, is selling its equity in three public shareholding companies. According to three advertisements, the corporation is inviting interested investors to submit their purchase bids before Oct. 3, 1995 to buy 250,000 shares of the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company, 200,000 shares of the Jordan Worsteds Mills Company and 40,000 shares of the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company. The bids should not be for less than 50,000 shares for the first two companies and 10,000 shares for the third company. The bid should include a bank guarantee for five per cent of the bid value in favour of the Jordan Investment Corporation. The ads indicated that the average selling price for the three companies during 1995 has been JD 7.980 per share for the Jordan Worsteds Mills, JD 3.960 for the paper and cardboard company and JD 27.250 for the cigarettes company (Al Dustour).

THE FEDERATION of the Chambers of Commerce has received an offer from an Australian company to finance government or commercial projects for up to \$2 million. The projects include building hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals, industrial complexes and infrastructure projects. The company offered to extend loans for buying factories and a variety of equipment (Al Dustour).

WHITE CEMENT sells for JD 170 per tonne at the black market. The official price at which the company sells the product is JD 125 per tonne (Al Dustour).

TWO MORE companies manufacturing sanitary paper joined the "Soft" and "Care" firms to demand that prices of second grade sanitary paper be floated to cope with the rise in prices of raw materials. The "Fine" management said it could also stop operations in the coming few days if the ministry does not resolve the price issue soon as the company, like the others, was losing. The board chairman of the "Fine" company said the ministry could complete its six-month study within days "if there are the good intentions to arrive at the truth." The management of the "Hala" firm has decided to reduce production by 50 per cent to curb losses. There are seven large companies and 40 small companies operating in the sanitary paper industry in Jordan. They have a total investment of JD 20 million and employ about 2,000 workers (Al Ra'i).

THE BOARD of directors of the Farmers' Federation in the Jordan Valley has decided to use a special mechanism to collect debts owed by a number of farmers. As such, borrowers who used loans from the federation for non-agricultural purposes and who are unable to repay them and have given up farming will be taken to court. Other debtors were given two weeks to straighten out their financial obligations to the federation or be referred to court. Farmers owe the federation a total of JD 1.5 million. Six hundred farmers are indebted against documented loan agreement while the debts of some 150 other farmers are secured by post-dated cheques. The federation was forced to take the tough stance after failing to give a JD 200,000 credit to the Agricultural Credit Corporation, which, for its part, refused to extend a large loan sought by the federation for this season. Moreover, the government has refused to guarantee any further credit from funding sources to the federation (Al Ra'i).

THE CARE of the Jordan Valley has decided to use a special mechanism to collect debts owed by a number of farmers. As such, borrowers who used loans from the federation for non-agricultural purposes and who are unable to repay them and have given up farming will be taken to court. Other debtors were given two weeks to straighten out their financial obligations to the federation or be referred to court. Farmers owe the federation a total of JD 1.5 million. Six hundred farmers are indebted against documented loan agreement while the debts of some 150 other farmers are secured by post-dated cheques. The federation was forced to take the tough stance after failing to give a JD 200,000 credit to the Agricultural Credit Corporation, which, for its part, refused to extend a large loan sought by the federation for this season. Moreover, the government has refused to guarantee any further credit from funding sources to the federation (Al Ra'i).

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Conference on risk management, foreign currency to begin Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Against the backdrop of moves in Mideast towards more interaction with international money markets in the wake of new economic opportunities in the region, Amman next week hosts a meeting that would focus on risk management and foreign currency.

The meeting, the annual conference of the Inter-Arab Cambist Association (ICA), will discuss issues such as derivatives (international monetary papers, bonds, shares etc.) and risk management and protection in the international market. The international news agency, Reuters, is organising the main seminar entitled "Risk Management."

The meeting, to be inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will also assess chances of investment in Jordan ahead of the

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October.

According to the Kuwait-based ICA, the Sept. 28-Oct. 1 meeting in Amman will seek to strengthen relations between local and international dealers and closely look at the issue of future currency markets (options). About 350 delegates from Arab and non-Arab countries representing experts in foreign exchange dealings and investments are expected to attend the meeting.

Direct Arab involvement in international monetary derivatives has been relatively limited, with most private sector banking institutions being constrained by local regulations that impose restrictions on their exposure in the international monetary scene.

However, banking officials say, there has been a marked change in the last four or five

years, with many banks as well as investment houses increasing their involvement in the international scene through acquisitions in foreign assets and monetary instruments such as shares, treasury bonds and short-term papers.

By and large, this increased involvement also meant a scaling down in foreign banks' management of Arab funds abroad, while no one could accurately estimate how much of the estimated \$200 billion in Arab money held outside the Arab World is handled by Arab institutions.

The ICA describes itself as a non-profit organisation "established for developing, supporting and improving the profession of dealing in foreign exchange and upgrading it to a high level of discipline."

It also aims at "promoting the concept of closer Arab-international cooperation and enhance friendly rela-

tions among experts and professionals working in the field of investment and dealing in currencies."

Improving business techniques and developing professional training for new members are also among the activities of the association. "More broadly, the association pursues every means that would give the profession a better image, more dignity and a higher rank" and seeks to "overcome problems and difficulties that may arise" among its members.

The ICA holds its annual meetings alternatively between Arab and non-Arab countries in what the association describes as an effort to "strengthen relations" between Arab and non-Arab operators and upgrade the techniques of dealings in foreign exchange dealings and investment.

The Amman meeting is sponsored by the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank.

Dollar, DASA drive Daimler-Benz into loss

STUTTGART, Germany (AFP) — The biggest German industrial company Daimler-Benz fell from profit into a net loss of 1.567 billion marks (\$1.04 billion) in the first half of the year because of the strength of the mark against the dollar, the company has announced.

The new president Juergen Schrempp said that work was being pressed ahead to find

"radical" solutions to the group's problems and particularly to one of the main sources of loss, the aerospace division DASA.

The bright star in the results was provided by the Daimler-Benz car business which increased operating profits by 44 per cent.

Results for the whole year would depend on the value of the dollar and on the extent

of provisions for the DASA aerospace subsidiary, the company warned.

In the first half of last year the group made a net profit of 462 million marks on the basis of German accounting standards.

By U.S. standards the company made a net loss of 1.57 billion marks from a profit of 369 million marks.

The company has produced two sets of accounts since its shares were floated on the New York stock exchange in October 1993.

For the first half the company reported an operating loss of 1.154 billion marks from a profit of 926 million marks.

Sales rose by one per cent to 48.037 billion marks and were expected to amount to about 108 billion marks for the whole year.

"The main factor behind the loss in the first half is the enormous fall in the value of the dollar against the mark," the group said.

Results for the whole year would be determined by the extent of provisions under the so-called Dolores programme to reduce the exposure of DASA to the dollar. A group is working on a plan and is to report at the beginning of October. Press reports have suggested that it might require the loss of about 15,000 jobs at DASA by 1998.

"Daimler-Benz expects to

make a loss in the second half as well but this is expected to be markedly smaller than that in the first half," the group said, without providing details.

"We are working now on radical solutions which will enable us, despite the negative monetary environment, to put the divisions concerned back on the road to profits," Mr. Schrempp, who has been company president since May, said in a statement.

Operating losses at DASA deepened to 1.6 billion marks from a loss of 429 million marks. Sales fell by eight per cent to 5.496 billion marks.

Operating losses at the electrical engineering and railway subsidiary AEG nearly doubled to 609 million marks from 341 million marks. "Strong competition in the railway business had been an aggravating factor, the company said.

Sales had slipped by 0.8 per cent to 4.386 billion marks.

But operating profit at the car division, Mercedes-Benz, had risen by 44.7 per cent to 1.492 billion marks on sales which showed a gain of 3.0 per cent in 35.6 billion marks "despite fluctuations in exchange rates."

Operating profits at the services division Debs had fallen by 43.1 per cent owing to the cost of integrating its German leasing subsidiary.

Beirut Bourse reopens

BEIRUT (AP) — The Beirut Bourse reopened Monday after a 13-year closure forced by war, but trading was not expected to begin before several weeks because of legal wrangles.

The rebirth of the stock exchange, which symbolised the city's prewar entrepreneurial spirit, is viewed as a key marker in Lebanon's attempts to reemerge as a centre for Middle East commerce after the 1975-90 civil war.

Exchange president Gabriel Sahnouli, speaking to reporters at a ceremony on the exchange's new floor, said one of the bourse's key roles would be to attract capital to finance the multi-billion dollar reconstruction of Lebanon.

He said: "We hope that the

activity of the Beirut Bourse in the future would be at a level we advocate as an engine of reconstruction and development in Lebanon as well as an encouraging factor in the flow of investment capital."

But the bourse was off to a modest start with only four companies listed, compared with over 50 before the civil war.

The trading floor is a compact 20-by-25-feet (6-by-8 metres) area at a Beirut office tower. It has only eight computer terminals and up to 10 employees.

The bourse, whose symbolic reopening came after repeated delays, is continuing to face legal and other challenges and trading was not expected to start before the end of next month or mid-

November, according to Xavier Mengin, one of two Bourse de Paris officials advising the Beirut exchange.

The legal delays were due to lack of approval for the bourse international regulations, held up by the State Constitutional Council, the government's top legal watchdog.

The council says the exchange had not consulted concerned institutions, among them the central bank and the brokers federation, about internal regulations.

State Finance Minister Fuad Saniora said he expected the regulations, modified to comply with modern rules of trading, to be approved by the council after conducting its own consultations.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST			FOR MONDAY 25/09/1995	
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
<hr/>				
ARAB BANK FIG	1920	459400	234.000	239.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3000	13403	4.470	4.460
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1750	4225	2.420	2.410
THE HOUSING BANK	1800	9540	5.300	5.300
JORDAN KIBITY BANK	5250	14571	2.780	2.780
JORDAN GULF BANK	279527	323375	1.130	1.170
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	6735	25324	3.750	3.760
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1040	3879	3.740	3.730
SURENESS BANK	2000	7300	3.650	3.680
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1169	4381	3.750	3.750
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	550	1848	3.340	3.370
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	78700	76594	1.960	1.970
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	12600	30421	1.610	1.610
<hr/>				
BANKS SECTOR			396041	964260
			INDEX NUMBER: 191.70	
			CHANGE: +1.597	
<hr/>				
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	500	1325	2.670	2.650
<hr/>				
INSURANCE SECTOR			500	1325
			INDEX NUMBER: 132.84	
			CHANGE: -0.092	
<hr/>				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	60739	101696	1.670	1.670
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	200	240	1.140	1.200
ARAS INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1349	7889	5.850	5.850
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8650	13932	2.040	2.080
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	12150	13930	1.150	1.140
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1115	13957	2.10	2.00
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	1000	7500	7.600	7.500
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	5250	12635	2.380	2.390
ARAS INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	7450	23244	3.110	3.120
BAR ELTAH UNIVERSITY	1250	1775	1.420	1.420
UNION LAM DEVELOPMENT CORP	16376	17937	1.120	1.120
<hr/>				
SERVICES SECTOR			135464	230244
			INDEX NUMBER: 128.51	
			CHANGE: +0.164	
<hr/>				
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	100	2072	21.750	20.720
ATTANJESP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	10000	1200	1.230	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	8049	29224	3.650	3.630
THE ARAB POTASH	500	2465	4.930	4.930
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	4520	42680	9.440	9.410
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	250	800	3.200	3.200
JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	200	1520	7.500	7.600
ARAS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2854	14132	4.950	4.955
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	2985	5.970	5.970
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	250	1715	2.500	2.500
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	650	2600	3.950	4.000
THE PUBLIC MINING	450	1341	3.000	2.980
SPINNING & WEAVING	100	182	1.850	1.820
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	167	1201	7.500	7.450
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	96100	6705	6.90	6.90
GENERAL INVESTMENT	4183	10458	2.500	2.600
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4000	5698	1.440	1.420
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	14168	15703	1.100	1.100
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	300	555	1.840	1.840
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	400	7176	1.470	1.480
ARAS CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	4800	8602	2.130	2.130
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1850	5939	3.200	3.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	5280	10529	1.990	1.990
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	200	332	1.650	1.660
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	4000	58080	1.440	1.430
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIA	1000	2010	2.000	2.010
<hr/>				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR			192724	267969
			INDEX NUMBER: 125.11	
			CHANGE: -0.20X	
<hr/>				
GRAND TOTAL			724729	1483798
			INDEX NUMBER: 158.89	
			CHANGE: +0.892	

Arabian Horse Show starts today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian horse riders dominated the first day of competition Monday at the sixth Arabian horse show which will officially open today.

Maysoon Bisharat and Ibrahim Bisharat shared the first place in the six bar show jumping. Sharif Zeid Fawaz came second, among fifteen young riders who participated in the event.

In the 100-metre flat race Royal Stable horses Ghali, ridden by Othman, and Salama ridden by Masir Atiey clinched first and third places. Al Hassan, ridden by Abdullah Hassan from Said Kheir stable was second.

The 400-metre race Al Maymoun, Ghadeer Romack and Noor Al Salam, all from Iraq, won. In the 600-metre race first place went to Lateef, second to Sindbad and third to Amir Al Badia.

Monday's events were attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, and Princess Zain Bint Al Hussein. Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad and Shuaib Al Kawari, president of Arab and Qatari equestrian federation. The

show will include a judging course, an endurance race, horse shows and a show jumping competition.

There are five international judges who came from Great Britain, Poland, Spain, Oman and Lebanon. International judges are necessary because refereeing of participants from one's own country is disallowed.

One of the main aims of the Arabian Horse Show is to enable horsebreeders to qualify their Arabian horses to take part in international competition.

The show also aims to expose a part of Arab culture and to demonstrate the endurance of Arabian horses. Today's official opening ceremony at 3.30 p.m. will be followed by the "foal at foot championship," "junior male" and "junior female" championship.

Charles strikes gold for Ireland

GALLEN, Switzerland (R) — Liverpool-born Peter Charles, who in 1991 decided to take advantage of his Irish ancestry and ride for Ireland, became champion of Europe on Sunday, the first Irishman to win a senior international show jumping title.

In a jump-off against the clock to decide the gold and silver medals, Britain's Michael Whitaker was clear until the last fence on Everest Two stop when he took off the top rail to finish on four faults in 50.97 seconds.

The 35-year-old Charles collected four faults at the second fence but thereafter his Belgian-bred Gelding La Ina was foot-perfect, clocking 49.83 seconds to give Ireland victory.

Afterwards Whitaker said his approach to the last hole had cost him the title. It is the second time that Whitaker, 35, has seen the gold medal slip from his grasp, having seen his older brother John Snatch victory from him in Rotterdam in 1989.

In a three-sided jump-off for the bronze medal, defending champion Willi Melliger was the only rider to record a clear round, to follow up Switzerland's success in Saturday's team event.

Australian Doohan wins 2nd world title

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Australian Michael Doohan won his second straight motorcycle World Championship Sunday, winning the Argentine Grand Prix to clinch the title with one race remaining.

Doohan, starting second on the grid on a Honda in the 500cc division, finished the 27 laps in 47 minutes, 30.236 seconds at an average speed of 148.346 kph.

The victory — his seventh of the season — gave him an unbeatable 31-point lead over countryman and Daryl Beattie, who finished Sunday's race in second on his Suzuki.

Only the European Grand Prix in Barcelona, Spain, on Oct. 8 remains.

"It's very satisfying to have won the title here in Argentina but I must admit that I could only relax on the final laps when I managed to keep Beattie in check," the 30-year-old Doohan said.

"Beattie has come a long way as a driver and is a lot more confident than before," he added. "That's why things got close towards the end of the tournament."

Italian Luca Cadalora, who started in pole position, was third on a Yamaha.

Earlier in the day, Italy's Max Biaggi came from fifth on the grid to win the 250cc category.

Morceli, Mutola blaze victories in exhibition meet

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Algerian middle distance great Noureddine Morceli beat his nearest rival by 40 metres in an impressive high-altitude victory in the 1,500 metres Sunday at the inaugural All African International Invitation track meet.

suffering from a cold, Morceli, three-times world 1,500 metres champion and current holder of four world records, nonetheless came in at three minutes, 39.01 seconds, nearly five seconds ahead of Kenya's Vincent Malakwen. The time lagged well off his

world record of 3:27.37 set July 12 in Nice, but Morceli — who trains and prefers races at sea level — considered the victory his best result ever at an altitude as high as Johannesburg's 1,750 metres.

"I wanted to put on a good and spectacular race for the public here," Morceli said at a news conference. "I hope they enjoyed it. This is my best race at high altitude."

The Algerian was one of several stars at the meet, the first at the just-completed Johannesburg stadium and an event South Africans hope

will give weight to Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympics.

The exhibition came just a day after South Africa finished first in the Olympics-style All Africa Games in Harare, Zimbabwe, in its first appearance since the end of apartheid-era isolation.

As expected, a handful of international stars dominated the meet. None established major records, though impressive times were set by sprinters Linford Christie, Frank Fredericks, Irina Privalova and 800-metres specialist Maria Mutola.

Mozambique's Mutola looked to a 40-metre victory margin over Ireland's Sonai O'Sullivan, taking the 800 metres at 1:57.67, 2.48 seconds off her African record and retaining her unbeaten record in the distance since the 1992 Olympics.

Fredericks, of Namibia, made up for his second-place finish to Christie in the 100 metres Saturday by blazing to a 19.93 victory in the 200 metres — just 0.12 seconds slower than his African record — despite a determined challenge from Emmanuel Tuffour of Ghana.

The Russian Privalova, who easily won Saturday's 100 metres, held off Pauline Davis of the Bahamas on Sunday in the women's 200 metres, clocking in at 22.38.

Not all the stars performed as well. Ukrainian pole-vaulter magician Sergei Bubka failed to clear 6.05 metres in three attempts and had to settle for a five-centimetre margin of victory at 5.95 metres over his Russian foil, Radion Gattaulin.

In other events, Renata Nielsen of Denmark cleared 6.51 metres in the women's long jump, South African

Karen van den Veen ran 56.13 in the 400-metre women's hurdles, Gideon Chirchir came in at 5:25.36 to lead a Kenyan sweep of the 2,000-metre steeplechase, Dmitri Schevchenko of Russia hurled the discus 60.88 metres, and Venuste Nyongabe of Burundi clocked 7:52.99 finish in the 3,000 metres.

Rated one of the world's top five athletics stadiums by the International Amateur Athletics Federation, the new Johannesburg Stadium will host the 1995 Athletics World Cup.

Coulthard wins first ever Grand Prix, edges out favourites

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Scotsman David Coulthard won his first-ever Formula One race Sunday, edging out Michael Schumacher and Williams teammate Damon Hill on Sunday in a Portuguese Grand Prix marred by a starting-line crash.

Ukyo Katayama escaped serious injury when his Tyrrell appeared to hit Luca Badoer's Minardi, flipped and slammed into crash barriers.

The crash caused officials to stop the race and restart it

25 minutes later.

Coulthard again left from the pole and never trailed, finishing 7.248 seconds ahead of Schumacher and his Benetton. Hill was third in the other Williams, 22.121 seconds back of Coulthard.

The Ferraris of Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi were fourth and fifth, ahead of Germany's Heinz-Harald Frentzen in a Sauber.

"It was a fantastic feeling and a warm relief," a grinning Coulthard said of the moment he stepped onto the

winner's podium and sprayed the crowds with champagne. "It's very important for my confidence to be a winner and to be a winner fairly and squarely."

Coulthard was passed over for next season by team chief Frank Williams, son of late Canadian Formula One star Gilles Villeneuve, to drive alongside Hill.

The Scot, who has been courted by McLaren and Ferrari, told a news conference he already had secured a ride for next season but refused to reveal the team until next week. McLaren is said to be the favourite.

The results moved Coulthard up to third in the world championship standings with 39 points, but allowed season-leader Schumacher to pull another two points ahead of Hill with four races remaining (72-55).

"As far as the championships go... it's looking a bit out of reach," Hill said. "I pray for a bit of a miracle to beat Michael in the championship now, but we'll give it a go."

With each victory worth 10 points and second worth six, Schumacher wasn't ready to claim the title.

"It's far too early to say, there are so many things that can happen, there are four races to go, so let's wait a couple of races," he said.

"With the performance they're going to put on it's going to be difficult for us. But we're not going to sleep in the meantime, we'll be pushing hard over the next weeks."

Schumacher, who started just behind Hill on the grid, moved past rival into second at the chicane on lap 61 of the

71-lap event, after the Briton lost a gamble with only two tire changes. The disintegrating condition of his rubber appeared to give Schumacher, who made one more stop to change tires, enough to get past the Williams.

After the race, an angry Alesi told reporters he felt he was being given second-rate treatment by Ferrari and team Director Jean Todt.

"I've had enough," said Alesi, who will be driving alongside Berger next season at Benetton. "It's the second time this season they've

asked me to pull aside for my teammate when I'm in front."

Katayama had to be cut from the wreckage of his car and flown by helicopter to a hospital in nearby Lisbon.

He was listed in a stable condition and expected to be held for up to 48 hours, FIA officials said. Katayama had no broken limbs, but a stiff neck.

Ken Tyrrell, chairman of the Tyrrell team, said his driver was not seriously injured but his left arm was

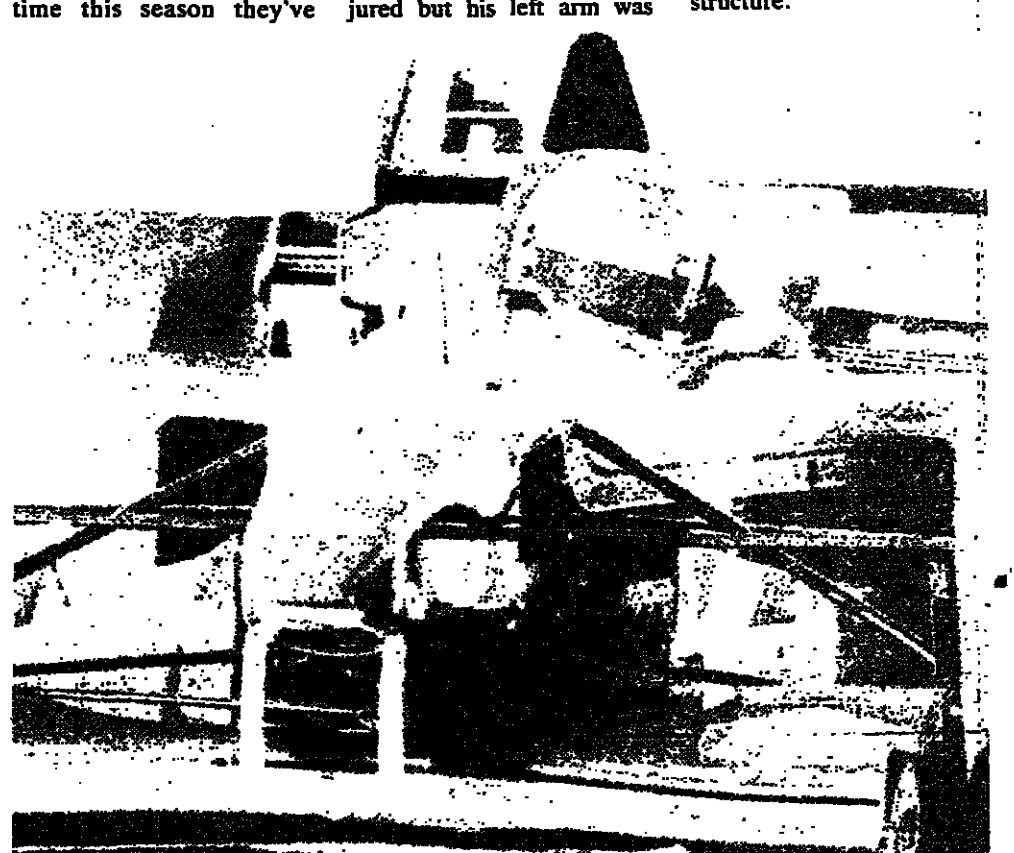
hurt after being trapped under the car in the crash.

Williams filled the front row for the start after redesigned FW17B cars dominated qualifying with improved diffusers, rear-end aerodynamics and transmissions. But after qualifying Saturday, with reliability questions looming Williams reverted back to the old specifications used at Monza.

Williams mechanics worked until 2 a.m. to change the cars back to their former structure.



Scottish Williams Renault driver David Coulthard jubilates on the podium after winning the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril (AFP photo)



Scottish Williams Renault pilot David Coulthard steers his Williams Renault into a curve during the Portuguese Grand Prix (AFP photo)

Jalabert wins Tour of Spain

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Frenchman Laurent Jalabert won the 50th running of the Tour of Spain Sunday finishing the 3,750-kilometre cycling race under sunny skies in front of cheering crowds in the country's capital.

Riding down the Paseo de la Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare, Jalabert of the Once team completed the 21-stage race in 95 hours, 30 minutes and 33 seconds.

German rider Marcel Wust won the day's race, a 171-kilometre stage that began in Alcala de Henares just west of Madrid. Wust's winning

time was four hours, 14 minutes and 59 seconds.

Upon entering Madrid, the riders circled up and down the Paseo de la Castellana eight times before finishing in front of the giant Santiago Bernabeu soccer stadium.

Jalabert's victory was all but assured midway in the race when the Frenchman put more than five minutes between himself and his closest challenger, Spaniard Abraham Olano riding for the Mapei-Gb team.

Jalabert won five of the race's 21 stages, proving himself nearly unbeatable in the mountains. His victory

marked the ninth time a French rider has won the Tour of Spain.

Meanwhile, the Spanish crowds that welcomed the riders into the city cheered heartily for Olano, the 25-year-old who many here see as the next great Spanish rider after Miguel Indurain, winner of July's Tour of France.

Olano completed the race four minutes and 22 seconds behind Jalabert. Belgian rider Johan Bruyneel, also of the Once team, finished third, 6 minutes and 48 seconds back.



third-placed Johan Bruyneel of Belgium (left) and Winner Laurent Jalabert of France (center) are flanked at the podium by runner-up Abraham Olano of Spain (right) and

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♥ A 8 7
♦ 9 8 4
♣ K J 6

WEST
♠ K J
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ A J 10 7 6
♣ Q 10 7

EAST
♠ 5 4
♥ K 9 5 3 2
♦ Q 3 2
♣ 8 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 3 2
♥ 7 6
♦ A K 5
♣ A 9 5 4

The bidding:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

Pass Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

4♠ Pass 4♠ Pass

5♠ Pass 5♠ Pass

6♠ Pass 6♠ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

When a defender has a choice of cards to play, it makes good sense to play a card you are known to have. This hand will illustrate what we mean.

Assume you are South. You don't your bidding books and reach an optimistic six-spade contract. Your partner has not been shy — with a balanced hand and no high spade honor, five spades would have been enough after East doubled North's five-heart cue-bid.

You win the first trick on the table and take the losing spade finesse. West returns a heart, which you ruff. You have your guessing cap on when you elect to hang down the ace of spades and drop the jack rather than take a second finesse. Now all you have to do is solve the problem of the club suit. You start by leading a club to the jack, which holds. Next you cash the king of clubs.

If West routinely follows with the ten, you have only one choice. You cash the ace of clubs and, when everybody follows, you discard a diamond on the nine of clubs and the slam is home.

Now let's suppose that, instead of the ten of clubs, West drops the queen, which that defender is known to have because the finesse succeeded, under the king. Now you have to decide whether to play for a 3-3 club split or to finesse East for the ten of clubs. Since the odds favor a 4-2 split, you're going to finesse the nine and go down.

Would we have been taken in by East's falsecard? You can bet on it.

117

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Arabic
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CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD

Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)
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CONCORD "2"
Police Academy
"Mission to Moscow"
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Boxer hospitalised after KO

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Filipino boxer Fernando Piccio was on a life support system in the Royal Brisbane Hospital Sunday after being knocked out in a bout in nearby Toowoomba the previous evening.

Piccio, 22, was stopped in the seventh round of an eight-round lightweight contest against Australian Selwyn Currie at the Toowoomba showground, 125 kilometres west of Brisbane.

He suffered a suspected brain hemorrhage after the bout and was taken to Toowoomba General Hospital for treatment. He was transferred to the Royal Brisbane Hospital early Sunday.

The hospital said in a statement that he was "Unconscious on a life support machine and in a serious condition."

Piccio, who fights out of the Elorde gym at Paranaque in Metro Manila, was counted out by referee Wally Lewis after slipping down the ropes after taking a flurry of punches in what had been a close, hard-fought contest.

He was taken to the dressing room on a stretcher after being attended to by a doctor, but then vomited and collapsed.

Piccio, who has a reported 5-3 professional record, was said to have had difficulty making the agreed weight. He scaled 59.8 kilograms while Currie was lighter at 58 kilograms.

"This is a tragedy, but every possible effort was made to ensure Piccio's welfare," said Australian National Boxing Federation official Brad Vocale, who was one of the judges for the fight.

UEFA upholds ban on club

GENEVA (AP) — UEFA on Sunday rejected an appeal from Dynamo Kiev Sunday and upheld an earlier decision to disqualify the team from European competition for match-fixing.

The UEFA Appeal Council met for six hours before announcing that it was rejecting an appeal from the Ukrainians to reverse last week's penalty.

Dynamo Kiev was expelled from the European Champions League and from European tournaments for two years for trying to bribe the referee in their game on Sept. 13 against Greece's Panathinaikos.

UEFA found Dynamo officials had tried unsuccessfully to bribe Spanish referee Antonio Lopez Nieto in the Group A game which was won in Kiev 1-0 by the Ukrainians.

Nieto told UEFA that two Dynamo representatives offered him two fur coats worth \$30,000. Dynamo contends Nieto was trying to save face after not being able to pay for fur coats he had delivered to his hotel room before the match.

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Martin steps in for Agassi, sends U.S. to finals

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Todd Martin replaced an injured Andre Agassi and beat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in straight sets Sunday to win the Davis Cup semifinal for the United States.

With a shirtless, bandaged Agassi watching from court-side, Martin clinched the berth against Russia in the Davis Cup final for the U.S. team with a 7-5, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) win before a cheering, flag-waving crowd at the outdoor court at Caesars Palace.

"It's the best feeling I've had in the game of tennis," Martin said after becoming the unlikely hero on a team stacked with the top two players in the world.

Agassi, who had hoped to provide the deciding win before his hometown fans, had to be content instead with a courtside seat and tender hugs from girlfriend Brooke Shields as Martin gave the U.S. team an insurmountable 3-1 lead.

Agassi, who pulled a muscle on the right side of his chest in Friday's win over Mats Wilander, woke up Sunday to find the injury worse and decided he could not play.

"It's disappointing because you want to go out there and play," Agassi said. "We all felt confident in Todd. He's a great backup singles player."

Martin, who was on the losing side in Saturday's doubles match, was told after the match by U.S. captain Tom Gullikson that he might have to play. But he went to bed Saturday night still not sure about Agassi's status.

"I was in limbo," said Martin, who got the final word he would play only 90 minutes before the match. "After I took a fair beating at the casino tables I figured I'd better get prepared for it in case I played. Of course, I didn't have any money left."

Martin, the world's 19th-ranked player, took advantage of some crucial mistakes

by Enqvist late in the first and second sets to turn the day's second match between Pete Sampras and Mats Wilander into nothing more than an exhibition.

Down 5-4 in the first set, Martin fought off two set points, one on a disputed call, to pull even. He broke Enqvist in the second game, then captured the set when the Swede netted a return of serve.

The scenario nearly repeated itself in the second set, as Martin took advantage of a double-fault by Enqvist with the games tied 5-5 before serving up a backhand winner to break his serve.

"A lot of good things happened at the right time early," Martin said. "I think that got him a little dejected."

Within the sun-baked crowd of 11,503 going wild between points, Martin avoided another set point against an increasingly tentative Enqvist to tie the third set 6-6. He quickly opened up a 3-1 lead in the tiebreaker, finally capturing the match with a backhand that nestled

"He served very well and I had a lot of chances, but I didn't take them," Enqvist said.

Martin, who had lost the deciding match to Sweden in last year's semifinal, threw his racquet high in the air and hugged Gullikson and Agassi. He then buried his face in a towel, crying tears of joy.

"I guess I got my second chance," Martin said. "It was certainly my highest moment in tennis."



After suffering a chest muscle injury in his Davis Cup match against Mats Wilander of Sweden, Andre Agassi of the U.S. (centre) wears a brace as he watches his replacement teammate Todd Martin play a Davis Cup semi-final match against Sweden's Thomas Enqvist (AFP photo).

Russia shocks Germany, reaches Davis Cup final

MOSCOW (AP) — The odds were worse than in "Russian roulette" — facing nine match points against one of the best serves in tennis — but Andrei Chesnokov walked away unscathed.

As a result, Russia clinched a second straight spot in the Davis Cup final Sunday with a comeback only slightly less improbable than Chesnokov's wrenching, back-from-the-dead victory in five grueling sets over Germany's Michael Stich.

After dodging all nine bullets on Stich's serve, trailing 7-6 in the fifth set, the gutsy Chesnokov went on to a 6-4, 1-6, 1-6, 6-3, 14-12 triumph to keep alive Russia's dream of a first Davis Cup title. The dramatic final set lasted two hours, 16 minutes.

"It was unbelievable what I did," said a jubilant Chesnokov, a decided underdog against Stich even before his miracle rally. "After I lost two sets 6-1, 6-1, it looked like I had no more chances."

Russia, too, appeared to have few chances of winning after dropping Friday's first two matches.

The final-match showdown was made possible by a doubles victory Saturday by Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy, then by Kafelnikov's 6-1, 7-6, (7-5), 6-2 victory Sunday over Bernd Karbacher, a last-minute replacement after Boris Becker was sidelined by a back injury.

When Stich's double-fault

after 4:18 gave Russia a 3-2 victory in the best-of-five, Chesnokov fell to his knees and grabbed his head. Then his teammates picked him up and tossed him in the air as the indoor Olympic stadium crowd of over 10,000 went into a frenzy.

"Andrei showed that he's a real player, a real fighter and a real Russian," said Kafelnikov, who was beaten by Stich on Friday.

It marked only the fifth time a team had won in Davis Cup world group play after trailing 2-0. Sweden accomplished the same feat against the United States in last year's semifinals.

The Russians, last year's runners up, will play the U.S.-Sweden winner on Dec.

1-3.

Chesnokov had won only three sets in his last four meetings against Stich — all on a clay surface similar to that used in Olympic stadium.

But the 59th-ranked Russian, a 12-year Davis Cup veteran, performed coolly and served out the first set at love after breaking Stich's serve to go up 5-4.

Stich began moving and serving better and broke Chesnokov's serve five times in the next two sets, apparently en route to an easy victory.

But Chesnokov, belting two-handed backhands from the baseline, battled back to take the fourth set. Then, after losing his serve to move to the brink of elimination in the fifth set, he fought off match point after match point — many on errors by the clearly tired Stich. Nearly an hour later, Stich double-faulted and Chesnokov had prevailed in 4 hours, 18 minutes.

"I think he had a little more gas left at the end," said the dejected Stich, who buried his head in a towel at court side after the match. "Still, I should have won."

German captain Nikki Pilic added: "That's happened maybe once in 50 years that someone who can serve like Michael would lose nine match points."

Becker, the world's No. 4 player, was in position to clinch Germany's fourth appearance in the final in eight years — the first with erstwhile rivals Becker and Stich playing together.

But the 27-year-old awoke in pain Sunday, his back ailing from more than seven hours of hard-fought tennis in two days. After the Russian grounds crew overwatered the court before Friday's matches to try to slow the serve-and-volley German's, Becker outlasted Chesnokov but complained that playing on the soggy, uneven surface was "like jogging on the beach."

Facing the prospect of another grueling match against the sixth-ranked Kafelnikov, team captain Nikki Pilic made the decision to replace Becker with Karbacher, rated 31st in the world.

Karbacher had beaten the 21-year-old Kafelnikov in straight sets the last time they played. But Kafelnikov quickly showed his superiority in racing through the first set, and survived a brief threat in the second set when Karbacher knocked a forehand long in the tiebreaker before flinging his racket to the backstop in disgust.

It was only Karbacher's third Davis Cup match. Kafelnikov, including doubles, has played 24.

"He felt the pressure, and you could see that from the very beginning of the match," Kafelnikov said.

Medina wins WBC title

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Mannel Medina won a 12-round split decision Saturday over Alejandro Gonzalez to take his World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight title.

There were no knockdowns, although both boxers appeared to be in trouble at various times.

Judge Lou Filippo of Downey, California, had it 116-112 for Medina, while Hank Eliespuru of Sacramento went for the challenger 115-113. Chuck Williams of Honolulu cast a 115-113 decision for Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said he would appeal to the WBC for a rematch.

"I'm very sad the judges didn't accommodate the effort I put into it," he said. "I don't see how they could have voted for my opponent. I'm very confident I won the fight."



Teammates throw Andrei Chesnokov of Russia into the air after his victory over Michael Stich of Germany in the deciding match of the Davis Cup semi-final (Reuters photo).

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BABU K. VERGHESE
MANAGING DIRECTOR

U.S. writes off all of Jordan's public debts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the United States on Monday formalised the cancellation of \$420 million of the Kingdom's debts, raising to \$640 million the amount of Jordanian debts forgiven by the American government since 1994 and relieving the Kingdom of all official debts to the U.S.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh and U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan in line with a bill adopted by the U.S. Congress in July.

In 1994, the U.S. government pledged to forgive up to \$702 million in Jordan's debts over the three years. The \$220 million first tranche of the write-off was formalised in September 1994, and a similar amount was expected in 1995. But following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October 1994, the Clinton administration promised to cancel the rest in one tranche.

However, the move ran into difficulties in the U.S. Congress since it was linked with internal cutbacks in the

American budget. Ultimately, the Congress approved the relevant expenditure to cancel all of Jordan's outstanding debts.

A statement from the U.S. embassy noted that the agreement signed on Monday "fulfills a commitment made by President (Bill) Clinton in June 1994 to forgive Jordan's public debt to the U.S."

According to the statement, the U.S. is "relieving Jordan of its obligations to service the small balance of debt to the United States until that is also cancelled."

"Thus, approximately \$700 million of public debts to the U.S. has been effectively written off by the U.S. treasury," said the statement.

The discrepancy between the total of the two tranches and the actual amount that was pledged resulted from fluctuations in the interest rates, but Jordan need not worry about the remaining \$60 million since it is only a matter of adjusting the U.S. books of accounts, informed sources explained.

According to the sources, the U.S. Congress authorised an expenditure of \$275 million to cancel all the remainder of Jordan's public debts

to the U.S. — about \$480 million — but between the time the administration made the proposal, got it approved by the legislature and drew up the actual documents for signing the so-called purchasing power of the \$275 million had shrunk to an equivalent of \$420 million in Jordan's dues to the U.S.

However, the specific reference that the U.S. "is relieving Jordan of its obligations to service" the remainder effectively meant that the entire amount is technically cancelled, with the next steps strictly limited to within internal American accounting practices.

The statement from the U.S. embassy noted that "during the last fiscal year the U.S. has committed approximately \$375 million in military, agricultural and economic aid to Jordan above and beyond the debt relief package concluded today."

"The United States is thus fulfilling its commitment to the people of Jordan in recognition of the bold steps Jordan has taken on behalf of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," said the statement.



JORDAN-PLO TALKS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday greets Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman and President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Yasser Arafat at the Royal Palace (see story on page one) (photo by Boghos)

Qatar wants to sell gas through Jordan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Qatar wants to sell natural gas to Israel via a distribution centre it plans to build in Jordan. Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said in an interview published here Monday.

Mr. Kabariti told the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram the plan would be presented during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Amman at the end of October.

The pipeline's capacity would be six billion cubic metres of natural gas per year. A private company was created in November 1994 to build the pipeline. It includes IEOC, a subsidiary of Italian AGIP, Amoco of the United States and Egypt Gas. It is capitalised at about \$300 million.

the future to the Egyptian pipeline," which will be used to export its natural gas, he said.

Egypt plans to begin construction in 1997 of a pipeline linking Port Said in Egypt to Beirut via Israel, with extensions towards Jerusalem and the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho.

Generally speaking, said Mr. Kabariti, replies from Arab and foreign nations to invitations for the MENA summit were positive.

Referring to Jordanian-Egyptian relations Mr. Kabariti said that the two

countries hold identical views, especially about the peace process and inter-Arab reconciliation, adding that coordination and cooperation between Amman and Cairo was ideal and exemplary.

Jordanian-Gulf relations, the minister said, are continually improving, especially with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He cited his recent meetings with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who, he said, promised to visit Jordan next month after attending the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York.

Mr. Kabariti also met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah in Cairo last week.

President Saddam sent several messages to Mr. Rafsanjani after his forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990 in which he offered peaceful settlements to problems arising from the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

Mr. Baker wrote that he had learned weeks after the 1991 Gulf war ended that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a letter to Iran's President Hashemir Rafsanjani "describing his intentions of living in peace with Iran on land which he referred to as 'our 840-kilometre seacoast'."

Mr. Baker was the U.S. secretary of state during the Gulf crisis. "Saddam was describing a new frontier extending from present day Iraq to the United Arab Emirates — which, of course, would include Saudi Arabia's Persian Gulf seacoast," he wrote in "The Politics of Diplomacy."

Excerpts of the book were published this week by Newsweek.

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted an unnamed authoritative source as saying "Baker's allegations have no base of truth."

"Baker has to prove the authenticity of what he says and show at least a photocopy of the alleged letter," it said.

Mr. Whitehurst said the inspector general's office of the Department of Justice is continuing to investigate.

A second investigation is under way into the FBI's handling of Mr. Salem, the informant.

Mr. Salem, an Egyptian immigrant, admitted on the witness stand that he had lied to everyone he met in America so they would think he was a "big shot."

He even admitted lying to a state jury about an auto accident.

The FBI has paid him more than \$100,000 of a promised \$1 million, but even prosecutors called him an unsavory character.

Mr. Cannistraro believes the FBI and prosecutors went too far.

"The effort to link the sheikh to a wider conspiracy is a horrible mistake... they went way overboard," he said, adding that Sheikh Abdul Rahman probably should have been charged only with conspiring to kill Mr. Mubarak.

NEWS IN BRIEF

European court stages landmark Cypriot case

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Court of Human Rights began a landmark case on Monday when it examined charges that Turkey violated the rights of a Greek Cypriot woman by its 1974 invasion of the island. Plaintiff Titiana Loizidou, originally from Kyrenia in the north of the island, charged that the invasion deprived her of her rights to property in Kyrenia. About 200,000 people were displaced by the Turkish invasion. The court heard arguments from both sides in a hearing lasting about an hour. It went ahead with the unprecedented case, which could lead to thousands of similar claims if Ms. Loizidou wins, despite objections from Turkey which argued that northern Cyprus was a separate republic.

Indian, Pakistani woman executed in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — An Indian and a Pakistani woman were executed Monday in the western Saudi city of Jeddah for smuggling heroin into the country, bringing the number of death sentences carried out this year to a record 177. The Indian was beheaded by sword, but the Interior Ministry did not say how the woman was killed. Generally women face a firing squad.

Kuwait takes delivery of first U.S. tanks

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait took delivery on Monday of its first U.S.-made Abrams A2-M1 tanks as part of an \$11 billion programme to beef up its defences, an official said. Kuwait received 16 of the tanks as part of the total 218 it contracted from General Dynamics Systems Division in 1993 at a cost of \$2 billion, a Kuwaiti Defence Ministry official said. The rest of the tanks are to be delivered in December. The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, Ryan Crocker, attended the delivery ceremony. The Abrams A2-M1, a modified version of the Abrams M1-A1 used by the U.S. Army during the 1991 Gulf war, is to become the Kuwaiti military's main combat tank.

Mauritania to open representation in Gaza

CAIRO (AFP) — Mauritania will soon open an office of representation in the autonomous Gaza Strip, its embassy in Cairo announced on Monday. Mauritania's ambassador in Cairo, Sheikh Wouled Baha, met on Sunday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and informed him of the decision, the embassy statement said. Until the opening of the Gaza office, which has yet to be specified, the Cairo embassy will handle Mauritania's interests in the Palestinian territories, the statement added.

Belgium refuses visa for Zhirinovsky

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgium has refused to issue a visa for Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who was to have attended talks starting in the Belgian capital on Monday, a statement from the European Socialist Party group said. The outspoken Russian parliamentarian was part of a group of nine Russian deputies scheduled to meet members of the European Parliament on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the situation in western Europe. Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist group in the European assembly, said she regretted that Belgium had refused to give him a visa. She said the Socialists disagreed with his policies but would have liked to hold talks face-to-face.

Kabul on alert

KABUL (AP) — The government stepped up security in the capital Monday amid fears of terrorist attacks by a warring opposition faction.

A threatened offensive on Kabul by opposition Taliban militia forces was cancelled on Sunday, but government officials said there was still the possibility of terrorist attacks.

"We're not taking any chances," said Sharif Ahmad, a paramilitary security officer working at a roadside checkpoint in Kabul.

Checkpoints have been set up at all major intersections and vehicles were being searched for weapons, he said.

The Taliban, a student-led opposition faction, aiming to topple the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, last week had threatened to attack the capital on Monday if Mr. Rabbani and his chief military ally Ahmad Shah Masoud did not surrender.

But faced with an increasingly fortified government perimeter around Kabul, Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Qayyum backed down from his ultimatum.

"Our operation is waiting for the civilians to leave Kabul," Mr. Qayyum said. "We can't set a time for the attack, but we are ready."

Although brushing the threat aside, Mr. Rabbani has continued to redeploy extra troops at all key front lines around Kabul.

Hundreds of government troops were seen being transported from the capital to front line positions west and south of the city.

Government commanders say the possibility of the Taliban breaking through their lines was next to impossible.

"We give 100 per cent assurance to the people of Kabul for their protection," commander Kadam Shah said.

Bahrain releases dissident cleric

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A prominent Shiite Muslim opposition leader was freed from prison Monday, more than five months after security forces seized him from his home at dawn.

Sheikh Abdul Ameer Al Jamri, a 55-year-old cleric, was arrested in April following street riots over unemployment and the government's refusal to reinstate an elected parliament it dissolved 20 years ago.

His release was not officially announced but he was given a hero's welcome at his home in Beni Jamri village near Manama.

More than 2,000 protesters were arrested following riots that erupted in December last year. The government blamed the riots on "outsiders," a reference to overwhelming Shiite Iran, which has denied any involvement.

Informed sources said the government has promised to free at least 500 more political prisoners, and that it may want to open a dialogue with the opposition.

Small groups of prisoners have been freed each week over the past month, but without any official announcements. Some villages have been decorated with colourful tents and festooned with banners to welcome the freed prisoners.

Amnesty censures Bahrain

Amnesty International on Tuesday urged Bahrain to investigate human rights abuses by its armed forces in response to the mass protests.

The human rights group, in a new report, listed mass detentions without trial of protesters, systematic and routine torture of detainees, killing of unarmed civilians and forcible exile of Bahraini nationals.

"The brutality with which the protests have been put down plunged the country into a human rights crisis," Amnesty said. None of the crimes committed over the past 10 months have been investigated and no-one has been brought to trial, it added.

Two detainees died in custody and scores were tortured under interrogation. Up to 4,000 people may have been arrested and while hundreds were later released, an unknown number are still in prison, Amnesty said.

Amnesty said Bahrain, which has refused to allow the group into the country, had denied the scale of violations. The authorities say protesters were violent and three police officers were killed in clashes with protesters.

Iraq denies Baker's claim over invasion

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq denied Monday it planned to invade neighbouring Saudi Arabia during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis as claimed by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his soon-to-be-published memoirs.

Mr. Baker wrote that he had learned weeks after the 1991 Gulf war ended that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a letter to Iran's President Hashemir Rafsanjani "describing his intentions of living in peace with Iran on land which he referred to as 'our 840-kilometre seacoast'."

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Mr. Whitehurst said the inspector general's office of the Department of Justice is continuing to investigate.

A second investigation is under way into the FBI's handling of Mr. Salem, the informant.

Mr. Salem, an Egyptian immigrant, admitted on the witness stand that he had lied to everyone he met in America so they would think he was a "big shot."

10 defendants — and FBI — await jury verdict in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Prosecutors in the biggest terrorism trial in U.S. history accused Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and nine others of hatching a "monstrous" plot to kill thousands of people in a series of bombings in New York.

But by the time the jury began deliberating Saturday, the defence had put the tactics of the nation's top law enforcement agency on trial, accusing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of plotting to frame the defendants to revive its reputation.

"This case is about one of the biggest and most embarrassing moments in the FBI's history," defence lawyer John Jacobs told the jury in U.S. district court. Sheikh Abdul Rahman, a blind Egyptian religious leader, is charged with

leading 14 people in a plot to bomb the United Nations, the FBI's Manhattan offices, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels and the George Washington bridge — all in a single day.

Three defendants pleaded guilty, a fourth testified for the government and a fifth will be tried later. The remaining 10 defendants, if convicted, face maximum prison sentences ranging from life to 20 years. Deliberations continued Sunday and are expected to last about two weeks.

The Sheikh, prosecutors say, is a Muslim fundamentalist who saw the United States as Islam's worst enemy. He also is accused of inspiring others to kill Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1990, bomb the World Trade Centre in 1993 and plan to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a U.S. visit.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman's alleged role was giving followers religious sanction to bomb, assassinate, kidnap and kill to persuade the United States to change its Middle East policies.

When the trial began nine months ago, Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Khuzami accused the defendants of devising "a battle plan that was so horrible, so monstrous, so vicious that if it had been successful the lives of every person in this city and in this nation would be changed forever."

Prosecutors played dozens of taped conversations that were secretly recorded by FBI informant Emad Salem. They showed videotape of five defendants allegedly mixing a bomb in a garage — although a prosecution expert testified the device lacked the right mix of ingredients to explode.

Prosecutors provided the jury with transcripts of speeches in which Sheikh Abdul Rahman urged attacks on the U.S. military in the Middle East. And they spent weeks showing evidence from the trade centre bombing, even though none of the defendants was directly charged in the attack.

But authorities may have stretched the evidence, said Vincent Cannistraro, the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) chief of counter-terrorism operations from 1988 to 1990 and now an international security consultant.

"I think law enforcement may have provoked a great conspiracy here," Mr. Cannistraro said, "in an effort to show they were on top of things after the World Trade Centre."

The defence accused FBI agents and Mr. Salem of concocting the bomb plot so they could race in and play hero.

Such a prosecution, defence lawyers argued, would make people forget that the FBI had failed to stop the trade centre bombing — despite trailing three of the bombers as far back as 1989 and infiltrating the alleged militants with Mr. Salem in 1991.

"When it was all over, the newspapers could print — and they did print — headlines saying 'FBI stops terrorist plot'," Mr. Jacobs said. "That's the motivation."

During closing arguments, Assistant U.S.

Attorney Andrew McCarthy defended the FBI, saying it quickly solved the trade centre bombing and made arrests.

"To the rest of the world out there, the explosion in all its tragedy was actually a high watermark for the FBI," he said.

At least two internal FBI investigations were prompted by actions taken after the trade centre bombing.

In August, FBI Agent Frederick William Whitehurst, a chemist testified that he was pressured to distort findings about the bombing to favour prosecutors.

Mr. Whitehurst said the inspector general's office of the Department of Justice is continuing to investigate.

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Would someone please call Mr. Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (R) —

South African President Nelson Mandela has carried a gleaming mock-rosewood cellular telephone with him since his inauguration in April last year — but he has yet to receive a call. The phone and a case for his glasses were all that Mr. Mandela carried himself as he visited towns and villages in two provinces at the weekend campaigning for the country's first local elections open to all races in November. Asked who had the number, he told Reuters only his granddaughter, Rochelle Mitrara, a student who lives with him in Johannesburg, and private secretary Beryl Baker. "But, you know, ever since I've had it I've never had a single call," Ms. Baker said later. "That's easy to explain: He never switches it on unless he wants to make a call."

Giant panda gives birth to twin cubs in China

BEIJING (R) — A giant panda has given birth to twins, bringing to four the number of cubs born to the rare and notoriously unproductive animals in China's biggest reserve since last month, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It was the second time the panda has given birth to twins. Xinhua said in a report overnight Sunday. She produced a pair four years ago. One cub is being raised by researchers at the Wolong Nature Reserve because the mother is having difficulty feeding two cubs, Xinhua said. Four cubs have now been born in the reserve in southwestern Sichuan province since Aug. 16, Xinhua said. The reserve's research centre has helped to breed 13 panda cubs since 1986 and now boasts 30 giant pandas. No more than 1,000 giant pandas are believed to survive in the wild in China. Experts say one reason their numbers are dwindling is that the animals have poor reproductive capabilities.

Beijing to stage race up TV-tower stairwell

BEIJING (R) — China said it would stage a stairwell foot race to the top of its television tower, a Chinese twist on New York's Empire State Building run-up. The winner will be the first to reach the lookout platform some 225 metres up the 407-metre Chinese Central Television Tower. Xinhua News Agency said. That's a heart-pounding 1,484 steps above ground. Due to space limitations, only 300 runners from 16 to 55 years old in four categories will be allowed to take part in the Oct. 10 race up Beijing's tallest structure.

Thai premier told to perform rites to beat eclipse jinx

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's most prominent fortune teller urged Prime Minister Banham Silpa-archa Monday to perform Buddhist rites to ward off bad luck that will accompany a total eclipse of the sun in October. Pinyo Pongchareon, general secretary of International Astrologers Association, said major change in the government was inevitable with the Oct. 24 eclipse. But he said Mr. Banham could soften the blow if he performed Buddhist rites. "According to statistics and the country's stars, a jinx always comes with an eclipse. Major change and big loss is inevitable but if the government leader performs Buddhist rites he can lessen the power of the jinx," Mr. Pinyo said.